

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

JANUARY 1, 1997

NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE PRICELESS PEARL

I searched the world for goodly pearls,
A merchantman was I,
But none I found of lustre pure,
Enough to satisfy.

'Tis fairer than the fairest gem,
My pearl of beauty rare,
No other gem in all the earth,
Can with my pearl compare.

How wonderful it seems to me,
That I this pearl should find,
While many to it's priceless worth,
By sin are still made blind.

No power on earth can take away,
This priceless pearl from me,
For treasured near my heart each day,
My pearl shall ever be.

-G. Grace Bell

GOOD INTENTIONS

Do you remember the good intentions you had last New Years Day? You were going to visit, write or call the sick and elderly. You had the best of intentions, but what happened? Others have had good intentions before you. Their intentions did not always turn out the way they expected, either.

Gideon was one of the great heroes of the Old Testament. He was used mightily by God to destroy the oppressors of the Children of Israel. When God called him to lead His army, although he felt himself to be the least of the least, he followed God's directions to achieve victory. He followed even when God told him to decrease the size of his army, so Israel would certainly know that their victory had been given by God. Surely three hundred could not have defeated over one hundred thousand, except God had been their deliverer.

The people showed their appreciation of Gideon's leadership by offering him the opportunity to establish a dynastic kingship over them. Gideon refused. He wanted them to worship God not him.

However, he did make one request of them. He requested that they give him a little token of their appreciation. He asked that they bring the earrings they had striped off the bodies of their enemies. The Midianites, according to their custom, had each worn an earring. (It seems there must be a lot of Midianites still around today.) He wanted to collect these earrings to make a golden pillar that would serve as a reminder of God's help and blessing. He wanted an object he could look at and recall the stirring victory God had given his little band. He did not desire to set up an idol to worship in the place of

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JANUARY 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

God.

Unfortunately, although his intentions were good, the end was not as he had hoped. The ephod of gold that he made from the melted-down earrings and set up at Ophrah became an object of worship for the people. What he had designed as a reminder of God's help, became an idol. It was a snare unto the people.

Like Gideon, many people have good intentions that lead to unexpected outcomes. They had hoped to accomplish something good, but it did not turn out that way. Many laws are enacted by legislatures or Congress that have a good intention underlying them, but either through deficiency in drafting or in enforcement, many turn out to hinder the original intention. Good intentions often lead to legislation that tries to enforce morality. As wonderful as it would be for all to behave in a moral way, it is futile to expect the unconverted to live that way without force. In their social activities, people often have good intentions of helping others, but, in the end, they may cause harm or distrust.

Unfortunately, there have been too many examples throughout Church history of those who, though moved by good intentions, have caused great harm to the Church. They did not set out intentionally to bring about that result. They thought they could make things a little more convenient or a little easier. They thought they could make the Church more attractive to those who needed its message. Their changes were not extreme or large at any one time, but each small change upon another added up to some drastic changes over a period of time.

When trying to make the Church more attractive to those not familiar with Conservative Christianity, there is often a move to remove some of the peculiar, distinctive features that might not be understood. In eliminating these distinctives, there may a temporary gain in membership, but Spirituality declines. When the distinctives are discontinued, those who do unite with the Church often chafe at the limitations still in place. Either there is a further doing away with restrictions or they leave the Church for a less distinctive group. The good intentions were that entrance into the Church would be made easier. After new members were included it was thought that they would desire to pursue more conservative ways. Having not counted the cost at the beginning they were not willing pay any further price later on.

Men should be praised for their good intentions, but they should, at the same time, be cautioned to seek counsel from those more experienced than themselves. What seems to be an excellent plan,

may be very obviously flawed in the view of one who has seen many good intentions come to ruin. It is no shame to think of ways that may bring the desired changes, but it is a sin to try to bring them about without the united counsel and encouragement of the Church.

As this new year begins, it is a good time to take counsel of our good intentions. Keep thinking of the good that can be accomplished in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout this new year.

M.C.Cook

FOURTH AFRICAN MISSION TRIP

As we are waiting in Gatwick Airport at London, England, we will share our daily activities while in Uganda and Kenya. Layovers in airports always seem to be the most tiresome part of traveling. This one is six hours.

We left home on November 17 and met Bro. Rudy Shaffer at the Newark, New Jersey airport for departure at 7:30 p.m. Bro. and Sis. Nelson Myers, Sis. Margaret Burkholder, and Bro. Rudy's family were there to see us off.

We arrived at London at 7:35 a.m. Since our lay over was more than twelve hours, we had to claim our luggage and recheck it later that evening. We had four carts of luggage to push through the terminal, going from the south terminal to the north terminal to catch our British Airways flight to Entebbe. We felt we were driving trucks with all fifteen pieces of heavy luggage, including our carry-on bags. We found that our excess luggage was quite expensive. We boarded a train to Victoria Square where we visited Buckingham Palace and watched the changing of the guards. We also visited Westminster Abbey.

Our flight left at 10:25 p.m., arriving at Entebbe at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday. Two vehicles took us and our luggage to Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Gorret's home where we spent most of our stay while in Uganda.

Wednesday we visited Bro. Peter Kitembo's home, went to the bank for money exchange, and took care of a few other necessary things. In the evening we visited with several other Brethren, discussing scripture and answering questions.

Thursday, we went to Kakumiro to visit the church there. We held services outside with approximately seventy-five men, women and children sitting on the ground. After services we distributed clothing to the people. They were anxious and very thankful to receive them. We visited eight or ten homes and were presented with gifts of chicken, potatoes and sugar cane. These people have practically

nothing but they have gardens and enough to eat. Their hospitality and generosity reminded us of the woman who cast her two mites into the treasury.

Saturday we returned to Kampala and met with the board members to discuss various issues. We also met with those who were to be baptized for instruction.

Sunday morning services were held at the Kampala church. Seventy percent of those in attendance were children. After services we met at Bro. Godfrey's home to distribute clothing and gifts to the sponsored children. We then found our way to Lake Victoria where five members were baptized.

Monday we went to visit St. Barnabas School to meet more of the sponsored school children and to distribute gifts to them. We visited some homes in the desolate slum area where some of the children live, and took care of some other necessary business. After returning to Bro. Godfrey's home, we began making necessary preparations for our early start for Kenya.

We arrived at the border at 8:30 a.m. where we were met by Bro. Andrew Ochenio and three other brethren with a station wagon. After changing our money into Kenya shillings, we started our long five hour drive to Kapenguria, stopping at a home for a short visit.

All day Wednesday and Thursday morning were spent teaching and instructing on biblical principles and doctrine of the church. The people requested that we explain more fully what the church stood for. We were impressed by their receptiveness and eagerness to learn. Approximately one hundred twenty or more were in attendance.

Thursday afternoon as we met for instructions for applicants for baptism, I asked if there were any polygamists who were in the group to be baptized. One elderly man raised his hand in confession. We explained to the people that we could not baptize anyone living in this condition. Bro. Andrew stated that we cannot compromise as we must keep the church clean. He announced that they must meet with the Elders after dismissal.

We met with the man and his second wife with whom he was living and explained to them that this is not according to the scriptures. Tears were shed by all as we felt the pain they were going through. She confessed and said, "I must be baptized, I want to be saved, I want to go to heaven, I will do anything that you say." They both vowed to separate. He would go back and live with his first wife only. Pray for this couple as they have committed their lives to the Lord. As we went to the water they were among the sixty-three members who

were baptized. It was a glorious sight to see the long line waiting for baptism. We met again for farewell services in the evening.

Friday morning we started our long journey to Nairobi. We stopped at Nyamongi to visit the Opile family. The roads were very bad. We had three flat tires within about a thirty mile distance. We arrived at Nairobi about 3:00 a.m. Joseph and Joyce Ogutu welcomed us into their home, where we were shown very friendly hospitality.

Saturday we went to the St. John Everlasting Gospel Church for services. Joseph Ogutu is the Pastor and founder of this church. We were pleased to find that their belief was similar to ours as the sisters' heads were covered. They also practice feet washing.

Sunday morning we met for services. After services, we visited James and Anastachia Nyugi's home, then on to Bro. Andrew's home where we met with the board members to discuss church issues. After supper we went to the airport for our departure for home.

Now, as we are flying 31,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean to our destination of Newark, we reminisce over our fourth missionary journey. We are pondering many fond memories and trusting that the Lord will bless the work in Africa to His Honour and Glory. Let us all pray to this end that the church in Africa will continue to grow both in number and Spirit.

Praise God! Home at last at 9:15 p.m. Monday evening, December 2. We thank our Heavenly Father for His providential care over us throughout our journey and allowing us to return home safely.

Brother and Sister Paul Stump

Brother Rudy Shaffer

GOD'S PURPOSE IN ADVERSITY

There are many things that compete for our time and affections. Jesus tells us in Matt.13:22 that the cares of this world choke out the Word. We are no longer able to hear His voice.

While we are so busy with plans, goals, projects, and friendships, God is very lovingly trying to teach us His will for our lives. So, first of all, God must get our attention. As He brings problems and pressures into our lives that are too big for us to resolve, we have a choice to make. Will we cry out to Him for mercy and grace, seeking His purpose in it? Often we respond by attempts to conquer in our own strength, or we may become angry and bitter toward God and others.

Adversity will become very destructive if we fail to see God in it. His ultimate purpose is to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. When pressures continue, the invitation to "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt.11:28, becomes

very attractive.

What can we learn through adversity?

We all need the assurance that God loves us. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Heb. 12:6.

It's a call to self-examination and repentance. "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." I Cor. 11:31-21. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13.

By it we are able to conquer pride. If we are experiencing a relationship where there is a lot of contention, it can be very distressing, but it also reveals pride. "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom." Prov. 13:10. The consequence of pride is destruction or loss. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18. When we have been shamed, God is able to humble us. "When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom." Prov. 11:2. "...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6b. Picture a scene in heaven where all the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God. (Rev. 4:10-11)

Adversity reminds us of our weakness. We need to learn how to glory in our unchangeable infirmities to experience the power of Christ becoming a reality in our lives. Only as far as we recognize that our talents, abilities, and strength are totally inadequate, will that power be evident in our lives. See I Cor. 1:25-31 and II Cor. 12:5-10.

We learn to cry out to God. God's response to His children may be in direct correlation to the intensity with which they cry. Many of the Psalms teach us how to cry out to God. "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Ps. 34:17. "Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily." Ps. 86:3.

Experiencing adversity tells us that we are involved in spiritual warfare. "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8. See Eph. 6:11-18.

Our faith is tested. "But without faith it is impossible to please him..." Heb. 11:6a. "That the trial of your faith being much more precious than gold that perisheth though it be tried with fire..." I Peter 1:7a. Suffering may come at the hands of those who despise God's principles, or because we have violated them ourselves. Either way, our faith is strengthened.

We learn to hate evil. God may expose secret sins through the consequences we face. Even though we know that the pleasures of sin only last for a season, yet we are still fooled by Satan's allurements. When our lives bear the awful cost of sin, it stands as a warning to the simple. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7-8. God has plans for us, but sin destroys our potential to achieve them. The lives of those we love are damaged. This should greatly increase our hatred of evil, but we somehow fail to see the final cost. "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil:..." Prov. 8:13.

In conclusion, our response to the pressures that God brings into our lives should be not to trust in our own strength, but to rest on the finished work of Christ. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loveth me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

Brother Rick St. John
2578 Co. Rd. 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

OUR AFFECTIONS

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:2. With this verse in mind, I have to ask myself the question, what are we setting our affections on?

We must first look at the word affection, and understand its meaning. Affection — is a moderate feeling or emotion: tender attachment: fondness: a special liking toward someone or something.

Now, within the rest of the verse, we must differentiate between things above, (or Heavenly things), and things on earth.

Romans 12:10 reads "...be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" We need to show kindness, affection, and love among brethren and sisters.

We also need to show kindness and love to those who are unsaved, so we can win them to Christ. Be cautious when making friends with those outside the fold. We can soon find ourselves liking the same things they like, go where they go, do what they do.

When we find something we like we will find time, take time, or make time to do it. At first, we may not notice we have a special fondness, or affection for this thing. As time goes on whatever we like will start taking a higher priority in our life. If this affection is spiritually

edifying we can grow and become more fruitful for Christ. We should have the desire to be in God's house as often as possible. We should desire to sing, pray, read the Bible, and fellowship with those of like precious faith. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:16-17.

If we set our affections on earthly things such as wealth, fame, fashion, or pleasure, just to name a few, we can also choose the wrong friends, wrong music, and wrong books. These things will hinder our spiritual growth. We will become self-centered, not seeing the needs of others whether it be spiritual or material.

Let us look at our lives and ask ourselves the question, "What are we setting our affections on?"

Brother Tim Siegrist
1830 Meadow View Rd.
Manheim, PA 17545-9457

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #37

THE PRECIOUS NAME OF JESUS

"...for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

There is a name I love to hear;
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in mine ear,
The sweetest name on earth.

A modern gospel song says: "Jesus—there is something about that name." Some hymns endeavor to explain what it is about that name. It was a common name in Biblical times. In the Old Testament it was Joshua, which was a common name then. Among Spanish speaking people it is a common name. Yet, with all its generic properties, it is special, it is different. It means "Saviour". As our text so ably concludes, there is no other name under heaven by which we are saved.

We hear that Name alot in our daily lives. It is mostly in a cursing manner by those who do not know Him. How sad not to know that Blessed One who gave His life for me. I wish I could tell it how I feel it just now. There is no sweeter position to be in: situated in the Love of

Jesus: sitting in heavenly places. If you allow Him, He will come to you, and sup with you and you with Him. I had the opportunity many years ago to tell a dying soul of Jesus' Love. Jesus is the way to heaven. In our daily lives we become immersed in houses and lands and lucre. When a man comes to die, and he knows it, do not speak to him of anything but Jesus. Not too long ago, a patient of mine was dying of a heart ailment. He was only thirty-five years old. Again I made opportunity to speak to this young man about the Lord.

In the first case I believe the person heard the call and answered positively. The look of the blessed was upon his face. In the case of the young man with the bad heart we do not know. We saw only torment, yet we were not with him in his last moments and do not know if he took the opportunity to call on the Lord.

Our desire is to tell others of the blessings of the Lord. They are inexhaustible. They are eternal. The hymn-writer so aptly stated:

No saint on earth its worth can tell,
No heart conceive how dear.

We will have all of eternity to find out just how sweet the name of Jesus is. Now we only see through a glass darkly. Few have put into words the Goodness of Jesus. The author of this hymn did service to His Name. We may not be able to pen apt words like Frederick Whitfield, but perhaps our lives and our testimonies can speak for Him. Have you witnessed for Jesus recently? We trust so. May God give you grace to do so. May our lives boldly say, "Oh, How I Love Jesus!", not just in words, but in deed and in truth.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

JOY, PRAISE AND BLESSING

Luke 24:51-53, "And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen."

The disciples of Christ had just come through a time of great sorrow and soul searching. The Messiah whom they thought had come to set up His kingdom and overthrow the Roman rulers had been crucified and put in a grave. But now the risen Lord had appeared unto them and given them His blessing after which He ascended into Heaven. Just previous to this He had promised them that they would be endued with power from on high after a time of tarrying in the city of Jerusalem. It was with this reality and expectation that they

returned to Jerusalem with great joy while praising and blessing God.

While the disciples showed worship to Jesus at various times during their earthly walk with Him, we believe that the worship they now had in their hearts was of a new and glorious intensity. Although the Holy Spirit had not yet come to lead them into all truth, we believe they finally realized, for sure, just who the Lord Jesus is. When the Holy Spirit came to dwell within them, He verified what they already acknowledged as Truth.

As Christians we already have the Holy Spirit within us. We also have the Word of God to verify what we believe to be true. Yet, we too can go through times of sorrow and even soul searching. If we remain true these times of spiritual barrenness can lead us to times of joy, praise and blessings.

Each of our worship services should include joy, praise and blessings. Many times in our house of worship there are only a few present. Nevertheless, it has been stated that it sounds like we have a church full. This is one good sign of joy being among us. Our joy should be in the Lord and our expression of it should glorify God. A lot of noise does not necessarily indicate a demonstration of joy in the Lord. Neither does a service void of joyful expression necessarily represent a people desiring to worship God in spirit and in truth. We do not believe in "pumping up emotion" but we do believe the Holy Spirit should be free to work in the heart and spirit of worshippers as He sees fit. We are persuaded that a "Hallelujah" or an "amen" is not out of order.

Praise is closely associated with joy but indicates a deeper spiritual experience. We should praise God for all of our spiritual benefits. Like the disciples, we come to a realization that the cross of Christ, as terrible as the sight and sufferings were, was a time of victory and exaltation. We can praise God that it did not all end there. Three days later Jesus Christ arose victoriously from the grave. Even this was not the final act worthy of praise. For He then ascended to the Father to be our advocate. If this is not enough to bring praise from our mouth and soul, we can praise God that Jesus Christ will return to Earth someday to destroy all evil and to provide us with glorified bodies like His own. Mingled with all this glorious truth is the fact that Jesus Christ gives us the strength to meet each trial and temptation. Surely we can join with the four and twenty elders of the book of Revelation and say, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

We often speak of God blessing us but we have seldom, if ever,

heard it spoken in a sermon or otherwise of us blessing God. It was of interest to us that the word "blessed" in verse 51 and the word "blessing" in verse 53 are both taken from the Greek word "EULOGEO" that can mean a "benediction" or "to speak well of". Our English word, "eulogy" comes from this word. It is possible that even as Christ pronounced a benediction on the disciples, they gave an "amen" to all of His teachings. We are not truly blessing God if our actions are contrary to our speech. Yet it is important that our speech be such that we are blessing God. It is much easier to "go with the flow" in our daily conversations than to leave a witness for our Lord.

If you have never experienced the forgiveness of sin, repentance along with trine immersion baptism will bring joy, praise and blessing into your life.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

WHY?

Many years ago, when I was acquiring my high school education by correspondence, the one question so often in my course, after a question I knew the answer to, would be another little one word question, WHY? I would know the answer to the question, but that little "why?" had to be answered too if I wanted a good grade, or maybe even a grade at all. I might have to go back, when my lesson was returned, and finish the question "WHY?"

Lately, in my daily Bible study I have been thinking along these lines, too. For instance, take God's ten commandments. They are very easily understood, every one of them. The average reader knows what they say. The Apostles say they are to bring us to a knowledge of sin. Please read I John 3:4, Rom. 3:20-31, 4:15. But the "WHY?" is left out unless we get down to the nitty gritty of it and thoroughly search the references to root and ground us in the knowledge God would want us to have. We would thereby be stable in rightly dividing the Word of Elohim our Creator who is above every god. Sometimes we think we know enough. Perhaps we would, if we would study it that way. So often we hurry over it with our doubts, plus others' doubts, suggestions and beliefs until we are carried out of the Gospel way. In the end we are not sure of right or wrong.

People will say "I do not think it makes any difference", "It is mentioned only once in the Bible" or some such remark as "God looks on the heart not the outward appearance." Believe me, dear reader, it

is in the heart before it is in the outward appearance. The Bible says "If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him." When such remarks are made immediately the devil comes to the rescue to promote his own cause and destroy the person's clouded belief in the Bible and get him confused. It is very necessary to answer the "WHY?" in order to be rooted and grounded in the Gospel.

God told the Israelite priests that when the Ark of the Covenant was to be moved, it was to be carried by the priests. When they disobeyed and put it on a cart, it nearly fell off. Uzziah put his hand on it to steady it. He fell dead. Disobedience meant death because he failed to realize the importance of the Holy Commandments contained inside the Ark. The strict commandment of God was disobeyed, because they did not think it was important.

Christ said we cannot serve both God and mammon. Matt. 6:24, Luke 16:13. By living a pretense of being a Christian when covering our witness for our Master with a bushel to keep the world from seeing our plain and simple life and conduct is disobedience. Read Matt. 5:15, Mark 4:21, Luke 11:33. The time is short. If we are thoroughly converted we will love our Redeemer enough that His light will shine through us to a lost and dying world that needs a Saviour. Satan was thrown out of Heaven because he had a proud and lifted up heart. I sincerely doubt whether Christ will take Satan's proud followers back into Heaven, even though they have claimed to be Christ's followers. We should be founded in the Bible. We must study the "WHY'S?" in everything we are commanded to do or not to do. Our Creator tells us in Mal. 3:6 "I change not." When He gave the prophet messages for the people, when the time of fulfillment came, they were fulfilled to the letter. We need not think He will change in His final judgments of either the righteous resurrection following Armageddon or the wicked one thousand following the one thousand year reign of Christ on earth. Each will have a judgment of work and rewards, whether they be good or bad.

When God says to do or do not in His word, we should obey His command because He said so. We had also better look up all references to find "WHY?" to become sure and steadfast and to secure the blessings for obedience, or the punishments for disobedience. Even in this life He blesses us for obeying, and oftentimes curses us for disobeying.

Always study the Bible with a willing mind and an open heart. The small, soft voice of the Holy Spirit will guide our questioning minds into the way of truth. Then we will know "WHY?". Clasp the truth and hold it fast.

May God bless you with a clean heart and a right spirit that will lead you into all truth. The time is short. Do not forget daily Bible reading and prayer. Man's time of six thousand years is almost run out. Psalms 115:16. We need to know "WHY?" or else be confused, and deceived and LOST. Christ wants our ALL. He expects us to put Him first in our lives in everything we do. We need to ask ourselves, Is this to the honor and glory of the One who suffered and died for me?

May Elohim our Creator bless us all, that we might meet each other in the Glory world with our Redeemer, is my prayer.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1937

OBEDIENCE

J. E. Bryant

The relation that we sustain to God, is that of children or servants, either of which relation demands obedience. Thirty or forty years ago the doctrine of obedience was more generally taught than it now is. This statement is no compliment to the teacher of today, whose duty it is to "declare all the counsel of God." The system that discourages the teaching of obedience or negligence in that line encourages or produces a lack of reverence for the great Law-giver.

There is not a sentiment of the Bible that justifies the belief that the command of God may be treated lightly, for it teaches that the disobedient are not only not blest but are punished for lack of respect to the word of God. God never gave a command to a people or an individual that did not require obedience to it.

The writer to the Hebrews (Ch. 2:2-3) speaks very clearly on this.

This "great salvation" has reference to the pardon of our sins and the obtaining of eternal life through obedience to the gospel. In teaching obedience it is essential that the concordant doctrine of both reward and punishment be taught with it. It is unquestionably the style of the teaching of the Christ and his apostles; when this style is evaded an irreverence for God, a disregard for His word will surely be the result and iniquity will more and more abound. When the doctrine of the Bible on the subject of obedience and disobedience, with its results was generally taught, a holier zeal, a greater reverence for God and respect for his word prevailed.

Such teaching, alas, is too nearly a thing of the past. I fear that the Protestant pulpit is in a deplorable condition. Three or four decades ago a Catholic writer said on this subject, "It must be evident to observant men that the Protestant churches have degenerated into

mere social clubs. There is no unity of doctrine; in fact doctrine is considered a badge of narrowness and illiberalism. Pulpit and pew are without any positive doctrine, nor do they feel the need of it. The teaching of the ministry within the same sect differs widely. Each has his own doctrine-plant, preaching his own opinions and ventilates his own views. Sensationalism and not doctrine dominates the Protestant pulpit. People go to church service to be entertained or amused."

What observant man or woman can deny that these statements are true? I can remember when every protestant church with which I was acquainted had a distinct doctrine for which it was ready and willing to contend publicly and privately; but through the practice of disobedience and the lack of teaching obedience, the lines of demarcation began to fade away until today I see very little reason why the popular churches may not unite. God wants his people united, but there can never be a union effected that will please Him unless they unite on an unabridged gospel.

Disobedience arising from the demands of our carnal natures is to blame for this condition. The teacher knowing the wishes of his parishioners, ecclesiastically and individually, has omitted and abridged until there is very little of the original left; and the cross which is so chaffing is being chipped until very little of its originality is left. There seems to be an idea that heaven can be obtained with less self denial or "crucifying of the flesh." No need to be so particular? For every iota of the revealed will of God that is omitted in the teaching or disobeyed in the practice, our chances for heaven are lessened and the certainty of punishment is increased. Too much of the present day preaching is like the cowardly preacher who told his audience that "unless you repent after a manner you will perish to some extent."

Woe to the teacher who fears his audience more than he fears God. Will the liberty sought be of eternal benefit to you? It is that you may make sure of heaven and your escape from hell more certain? Does the teaching of Holy Writ and experience of holy men justify a belief that a departure in any degree is helpful to a holy life? Jesus "will come in flaming fire taking vengeance on them who know not God and obey not the gospel." "Not every one that says Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven."

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Jacob C. Ness, Secretary
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H. 108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Tom Jamison
R.2 Box 30
Hoxie, KS 67740
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

(USPS 054-780)

ELAM MOSS
4254 RICHMOND PALESTINE
NEW MADISON OH 45346

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

JANUARY 15, 1997

NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD, IN THE GOSPEL OF HIS SON

God in the Gospel of his Son,
Makes his eternal counsels known;
'Tis here his richest mercy shines,
And truth is drawn in fairest lines.

Wisdom its dictates here imparts,
To form our minds, to cheer our hearts,
Its influence makes the sinner live;
It bids the drooping saint revive.

Our raging passions it controls,
And comfort yields to contrite souls;
It brings a better world in view,
And guides us all our journey through.

May this blest volume ever lie
Close to my heart, and near my eye,
Till life's last hour my soul engage,
And be my chosen heritage.

-Benjamin Beddome

A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY

The Apostle Peter was involved in some of the highest and some of the lowest moments that Jesus spent with His disciples. It was Peter who made the dramatic confession that Jesus was the Son of God. It was also Peter who suggested that Jesus did not come to die. It was Peter who tried futilely to defend Jesus with his sword. It was, of course, Peter who denied Jesus three times.

Peter was impetuous, but he could become easily discouraged also. This was his history until the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came into his life. From that time on he was a faithful, energetic servant of God. He went far preaching the Gospel. He stood firmly upon the Gospel.

Later in his ministry, Peter wrote two epistles. In these letters he spoke of the Jesus, whom he had known and served. He reminded them that he had experienced many things with Jesus. They could hear from a person who had been closely associated with Jesus. This would confirm what they believed. Peter could tell them just how Jesus had spoken and acted. The Apostle John also spoke of seeing, hearing, touching and eating with Jesus. Those to whom he wrote could know that he was giving them truth as he had received it from Jesus in person.

Peter spoke of the time when he would no longer be with them. Then he could no longer reminisce of his days with Jesus for their Spiritual benefit. Jesus had prophesied that Peter would die a martyr's death. He knew the time would eventually come. Then what would serve as a reminder of these Spiritual truths? Where would

THE BIBLE MONITOR**JANUARY 15, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

they find the proof to back-up their faith? Peter knew that all men need something behind them to help support them against the critics and nay-sayers.

He reassured them that there was a more excellent foundation for their faith and practice. He knew that men would die. He knew that men could lose their memories. He knew there would be men who would deliver a false witness. He wanted them to know that there was a witness that could be trusted after he had departed this life. Although they would not have his eyewitness account of Jesus' words and actions, they would have something even more trustworthy. They would have the Word of God.

The scriptures had been delivered to them. They had the portion commonly called the Old Testament. The New Testament was in the process of composition even as Peter was writing to them. The scriptures would be more trustworthy than any man's memory and recounting of past events. The Bible was not the production of men drawing upon their own memories.

The Bible was inspired by the Spirit of God. He moved through called men to write as He dictated. Their personalities shaped the words as they wrote but their message was God's message. The Spirit conveyed to men the mind of God. Through ready writers these thoughts were transcribed onto the leaves of the most needed and reliable book ever written.

Peter could well call it a more sure word of prophecy. It certainly was more accurate than any history ever written by scholars. It had a factual foundation. God caused it to be written so its pages were all an accurate account of His will and His dealings with man throughout the history of the world. When we think of something that is sure, we think of something solid, unchangeable, unmoveable. When the word, "more" is added to "sure" the effect is to strengthen something that is already very strong. Peter considered the scriptures to be doubly strong and dependable. He wanted the believers to know that they could depend upon the Bible, when his own voice was stilled. He called it a "word of prophecy". He meant it not only spoke forcefully upon events yet to transpire, but also on what had happened in the past. It conveyed the authority of God when they read His commands, statutes and judgments. It brought to their minds His mind on all subjects, whether historical, doctrinal or prophetic.

He could assure them that the writers whom the Holy Spirit inspired did not write their private ideas. They wrote as they were moved by God's Spirit. The Bible is remarkable among the holy books of the world's religions. It does not sugarcoat the faults and failures of the

characters presented through its pages. Instead of being sweet, lovable, and perfect, they often are crude, unthinking, unloving, earthly-minded people. These faults are clearly shown, so we might know that God can still use imperfect men, who are willing to accept His gracious provision for their Spiritual well-being. God can use imperfect men, who allow Him to have His way with them.

We have a more sure word of prophecy. Let us allow it to direct our feeble, halting footsteps during our journey through this world.

M.C.Cook

THE BENEFITS OF SUFFERING

Suffering is an amazing tool, that God uses over and over. In the believer it brings out the best. In the unbeliever it brings out the worst.

Jesus, when He was in the garden, suffered intense agony. He said, "...not my will but thine be done." On the cross He said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Job was a man who suffered much. He said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Another time he said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.", and "Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee."

What would we do if we did not have these scriptures to refer to in our lives?

Abraham when he was taking his son up the mountain to be sacrificed, said, "...God will provide."

The thief on the cross who believed Jesus said, "Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus answered, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." That thief knew that Jesus was Lord and that He had a kingdom. If Jesus remembered him he would be saved. The other thief could only think of this life and getting down off the cross. He said, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."

We can not tell God what to do. We may ask things of Him. We may plead with Him to change our circumstances, but we can not demand.

The Apostle Paul said, "That I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death," and also, "I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." There are many other scriptures written by Paul related to suffering. He was a man who realized that suffering helped him spiritually.

John suffered when He was on the Isle of Patmos and was all alone. Look at the revelation God gave unto him which gives us so much information about Heaven!

Thomas was a man who was disturbed mentally when Jesus was crucified. He suffered much and was frustrated because he knew Jesus had died. He had seen the soldiers thrust a spear into His side. He had seen Jesus raise the dead when He was alive, but how could a dead man raise Himself? He was convinced that Jesus was dead and no one—not even the disciples—could convince him of the resurrection of Jesus. He thought the other disciples had lost their minds and that he was the only one who had any sense about it. He was so convinced that he said, “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side I will not believe.” After the resurrection, when the disciples had met for the second time, Thomas was with them. Jesus suddenly appeared in their midst. Jesus said, “Thomas, reach hither thy finger and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing.” Thomas said, “My Lord and my God.” Jesus said, “Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.” Today we are recipients of that blessing. We can also say, “My Lord and my God.”

Due to the suffering from the stroke I have experienced, it has caused me to think of the many men in the Bible who have suffered. They have given us many different examples that can apply to all mankind. I have seen through suffering a new concept. I now have a closer relationship to others who have suffered.

Romans 8:18 says, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Brother Rudy Cover
2435 Temperate Ave.
Modesto, CA 95380

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

Suffering But Not Defeated

It is very comforting to study about the suffering church at Smyrna as described in the book of Revelation. Smyrna was located about thirty-five miles from Ephesus. It was a wealthy city that rivaled Ephesus in its beauty and commerce. It had well-planned harbors and a beautiful countryside that was surrounded by seven hills. With

all of this beauty, could there be any disadvantages to living in this setting? Yes! It was filled with the pagan temples of Aphrodite, Asclepia, Apollo, Eybelle, Zeus and the Emperor Tiberius. It was a free city but it gave its full allegiance to the Roman Empire.

Smyrna had been destroyed in the seventh century BC. It had been rebuilt by Alexander the Great in the third century BC. It was famous for its beauty but even more for its excellent school of medicine.

The Word is silent about the establishment of the church in Smyrna but it was probably begun as a missionary offshoot from the Ephesian church.

Christ identifies Himself to this church as "The first and the last, who was dead, and is alive." Smyrna means myrrh or bitterness...a sweet perfume used for the embalming of the dead. This was an appropriate picture of Christ's suffering and death. Knowledge of the Lord's suffering was a great comfort to the believers at this church as they were undergoing horrible persecution.

There is no condemnation to be found in the writing to Smyrna, only commendation. Christ knew their "works, and tribulation, and poverty." Politically, they suffered persecution from the Roman Empire. Physically, they were fed to the lions, were crucified, killed by wild animals, tarred, burned at the stake and even boiled in oil. Polycarp, the Bishop at Smyrna, was burned at the stake in the arena at Rome around 155 AD. Economically, they suffered great poverty as a result of their uncompromising commitment to the Lord and their faith. They were denied employment, Christian shop owners were boycotted and their homes were even robbed and vandalized. The Lord could relate to this poverty. And, yet, they were called rich. And indeed they were. They were rich in Christ's love, scriptural encouragement, the fruit of the Spirit and in spiritual blessings. Paul's testimony provides a good summary of what the Christians in Smyrna were experiencing: "As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." (II Cor. 6:10)

Many of the Jewish community were used by Satan to blaspheme the Church and the Lord. Christ said, "I know the blasphemy of them who say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." They were Jews by birth but not by faith. They were ultimately motivated by Satan to persecute and put down Christians and the Church.

Satanic persecution caused some of the Smyrna believers to be put into prison. There they were persecuted severely. Yet the Lord counseled the church not to fear the things they were suffering. He

assured them that He was in control of all things and these circumstances were even under His control. As with Job, God sets the limits on what Satan can do to believers. He does not let us be tried beyond what we are able to bear. (I Cor. 10:13) In addition, His grace is sufficient to carry us through all trials. (II Cor. 12:9)

Christ promised those who would remain faithful a crown. A "crown of life"—to be exact. This is the martyr's crown. It is given to those who will be faithful even unto death. Again, John called on the believers to "Hear what the Spirit said to the church." Those who would overcome would not be hurt by the "second death." NO TRUE BELIEVER WILL HAVE TO STAND BEFORE THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT AND BE CONDEMNED TO THE LAKE OF FIRE, WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH. (Rev. 20:11-15)

The Christians in Smyrna were crushed by persecution but throughout their horrible experience, they emitted a glorious fragrance of Christ. Yes, they were poor by the world's standards, but they were rich in the Spirit. Because they were faithful to their commitment to the Lord, they lived a victorious life.

Christians today are undergoing trials for their faith. We can glean encouragement, strength and great comfort from the testimony of Smyrna. We can be challenged to take great hope in our Savior's assurance that He will "never leave us or forsake us."

Brother Len Wertz

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

As the years swiftly come and go, my childhood days seem much clearer to my memory than things that happen now. Those long-ago-memories are much dearer to my soul than the happenings of today. What a gift Godly parents are. If parents were today as they were yesteryear, I believe our world would be a much more comfortable place in which to live. The radio, television, VCR, and so forth (please read Isaiah 33:15, Psalm 101:3, 119:37) seem to have consolidated people into one great mass of evil. They love to have it so, therefore we have evil all about us in family, in state, and yes, also in churches, sad to say. They have become lovers of many pleasures, lusts of the eye, ear and flesh, more than lovers of God. Read II Timothy 3:1-9.

My dear mother passed to her reward thirty-three years ago, and my father, thirty-two years ago. How I miss them. I would love to sit and talk with them once again.

I remember so vividly so many sayings of wisdom my mom used to quote. One in particular was: "Birds of a feather flock together." We

do not see robins and crows, bluebirds and sparrows or any two kinds in the same groups when they go away in the autumn, or when they return in the spring. Each group keeps their own company. Every kind of bird does the same just as God created them to do. However, people mingle with people of all types. They are led away from the truths God has taught in His Holy Word by the cunning and deceptive vices and voices of the evil one and his helpers who are at large to deceive the very elect if it were possible. Mark 13:22.

Another one of her sayings was, "Show me the company you keep and I will tell you what kind of person you are." Another saying that is true is "Like attracts like." So, I was always taught as the Bible tells us, to choose godly company. II Thessalonians 3:14, II Corinthians 6:14-18, Rev. 21:8. We cannot keep bad company and it not rub off because "We are a part of all we meet" whether we want to be or not. We always copy to some extent in thought or action some part or parts of the people with whom we come in contact. We save ourselves a lot of trouble by shunning the evil unless they solicit our help to assist them to live a better life.

I heard a little story one time about a pet parrot that escaped his cage and joined himself to a flock of blackbirds. The farmer, tired of the blackbirds stealing his grain, shot into the group with his shotgun. When he picked them up there was his pet parrot that had gotten away, with a broken wing and guess what the poor parrot was saying, "Bad company, BAD COMPANY." I wonder if the parrot did not also like the farmer's grain? Sometimes we can learn lessons from even the birds and the beasts.

Another of my mother's bits of wisdom was, "A stitch in time saves nine," which is true whether mending a sock, or rearing sons and daughters. Another was "Whatever you do, do with your might, a job done by halves is never done right." Which means we should apply our talents to do our work well whether it be for God or man. So the list could go on. The people who do their best are sought out for the work and service of both God and man.

It is my prayer that we all will strive to please Him Who has been preparing that Beautiful City with streets of gold and gates of pearl. That is where there is no setting sun. There we will eat twelve perfect fruits from the tree of life and drink pure water from the river of life. There we will be without pain or sickness forever and ever.

Man's time is almost run out. The history of this world will soon be written. One soul is worth more than all this old wicked world is worth, Christ said. He has paid the price for us all. We must keep His commandments in faith believing while we live and thereby seal

our covenant with Him for eternity, there to praise His name forever. What a joy that will be. GLORY HALLELUJAH.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
6159 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550

BUT IF THE LORD MAKE A NEW THING

(Read Numbers chapter 16)

Numbers 16:30, "But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD."

Our opening verse is the words of Moses as he describes the final end of those who deemed to challenge his authority. Moses vindicated his own words and actions in verse 28 of this chapter. "And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind."

At that time, Korah and his followers challenged the right of Moses to discern the mind of God and install rules to govern the spiritual lives of the Israelites. Recently, many have challenged the right of church leaders to set forth rules and regulations for a group of believers. Louis L. Bauman, who Bob Kinsley in his book ALEXANDER MACK: HIS GREATEST LEGACY describes as "an innate and pervasive leader (who) enjoyed widespread influence in Brethren circles of his day," was one of the early leaders to challenge the right of church authority. He is quoted as saying, "The Scriptures had lost their place of centrality and primacy in the churches' polity and its life and practice in the 19th century National Church." He is referring to the time in our Brethren history when the practices, that we follow in the Dunkard Brethren Church, that set us apart from the world and most other Christian organizations, were established.

The thinking that rules and regulations in a denomination or gathering is adding to Scripture pervades modern theological understanding. We realize that our Brethren forefathers, like Moses, were only human and subject to error. When the Pharisees questioned Christ on the subject of divorce (without a cause) they asked him, "...Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?" Jesus' answer would seem to indicate the human weakness of Moses. "...Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so." The human weakness of Moses did not

change the fact that God had ordained him to give spiritual instruction and leadership to the nation of Israel. Likewise, we believe that God was leading our Brethren forefathers as they established rules and regulations for this movement.

As we come into the New Testament era we find that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit lead us into a deeper understanding of the will of God than was revealed to Moses. While we do not believe in progressive revelation beyond the Holy Scriptures, we do believe that a church can change its mind on certain matters not spelled out in Scripture. One of the ways to determine if decisions are of the Lord is to think ahead as to what possible final results will be.

As we examine the challenge to the church rules and regulations that men claim to have caused Scripture to have lost its place of centrality and primacy in the church, let us also examine the consequences suffered by those who have elected to drop these regulations from their church government. With a possible few exceptions, the Bible has been replaced with human reasoning. "Because of the hardness of their hearts" church leaders questioned the right of a church to govern its membership. This resulted in making peculiar (set apart) practices and doctrines optional for the membership. In a relative short period of time the progressive church leaders were encouraging the membership to ignore the early church practices. The final result was that many in leadership actually questioned the authority of Holy Scripture itself. Those who believed in a literal six day creation were ridiculed. It finally came to the place where the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ was questioned. This made us equal with the cults!

We do not believe we must discard what God has revealed to our Brethren forefathers, for our own safety, to see God "make a new thing" in our midst. We believe God wants to lead us into deeper spiritual worship and purer personal lives in the year 1997.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

TOO LATE

"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man..."
Genesis 6:3.

Recently Brother Rudy Shaffer came to Mechanicsburg and fed us nightly from God's Word. God's people, who are blessed much more than we deserve, were blessed again for an entire week. Brother Rudy spared nothing, and we believe that by the end of the week he

was free of the blood of all men.

With all the many blessings we received, this writer believes that there were those who heard the Word of God, yet did not respond to the pleas of the Spirit. How wonderful it is to live in the Age of Grace, yet we are not certain when this day will be completed. The rich man pulled down his barns and built bigger ones because his harvest was so great. He said to himself, take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. Yet that very night his soul was required. We do not know when the bridegroom may come, therefore we must be ready. Our lamps must be trimmed and burning, for the bridegroom may come anytime.

God has prepared a place for us in heaven. There is also a place prepared for the devil and his angels: a place too horrible to consider, yet to those who are sinning away their day of grace it will no doubt become a reality. God's righteous anger and indignation are kindled against those who reject Him. To those who say, "God would never cast me into hell," take heed. He can easily do it, just as a human being can crush the life from an ugly insect or worm. God's righteousness is such that unrighteousness cannot be found in His presence.

God's love for us is so great that He sent His Son to be made a sacrifice for sin for us: His ONLY Son. This is love hard to imagine. Not one of us has even sacrificed one of our children for Him, yet He gave the brightest star Heaven had to offer. God loved us while we were yet in our sins, when we were unlovable.

Friends, God commands all men everywhere to repent and get right with Him. Just joining a church is not enough. Look to Jesus and trust His atoning blood today. Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. To live the Christian life is the greatest life, and greater still are its rewards.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1937

THE SINFUL CARNAL NATURE OF MAN

J. H. Beer

(Rom. 7:18-21) "For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for the will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." This whole chapter is a picture of the natural or carnal man, striving against sin and is unable to

overcome it. The Bible teaches that man is born with a sinful nature, and that this evil principle within him can and must be destroyed before he can enter heaven.

(Psalms 51:6) "Behold I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Much is being said in the modern pulpit about natural goodness, and many are saying that man is not naturally bad and about all he needs is a little culture and development. But God's word declares that man - every man - is lost and ruined in his natural condition and must be completely changed before there can be any hope for him. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, for there is none righteous, no not one. All the evil in the world comes out of the natural heart. Listen to Jer. 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Gen. 8:21) "For the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth." (Matt. 15:19) "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts."

Murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies, these are the things that defile a man. All this boasting about the greatness of man is the flesh, and the preacher who talks about advancement and culture and development, and magnifies man, lacks moral discernment and is intensely ignorant of the depravity of the human heart.

There are different degrees of badness - some people who are apart from grace have many good traits about them, yet sin is covered up in the heart and frequently manifests itself in some form. So instead of looking for goodness to come out of the natural man, we should adopt the Bible plan, preach repentance to him and expect the devil to come out of him. Then after he is soundly converted he is delivered from the old man of sin, who is as old as the fall of Adam.

(Rom. 6:6), "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve Sin." God does not want us to be deceived by sin, the whole Bible is a treatise on and how to get rid of it. So the one question before every individual is the sin question. Oh, you say the sin question don't bother you? (Rom. 8:6-7) "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be."

Sin is the one thing that can permanently ruin a man in this life and eternally damn him in hell. This old sinful nature often springs up when one least expects it, the old man is hidden deep down in the heart, but under provocation he flares up and lets his presence be known and felt. Paul says we are to put off the old man with his

deeds and put on the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:22) "To retain the Holy Spirit as an indweller the believer must be perfectly abandoned to God's will; with every trial that comes and with every duty that is to be performed, fresh grace will be given."

Few people are willing to practice self-denial and to let God have His way with them, but they allow worldliness or pride or ambition or covetousness or the flesh to creep in and destroy the spiritual life, they run well for a season and when tempted with an easier way, which does not require so much self-denial they turn aside and while they may still keep up their profession they are heart backsliders and if they do not repent will be hopelessly lost. If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin.

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

(Hymn #47)

I'LL COUNT MY BLESSINGS

Deuteronomy 28:2, "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt harken unto the voice of the Lord thy God."

This is perhaps this writer's favorite Brethren hymn. It's simplicity and honesty suggest the simple, happy life of the ones who praise the Lord. The writer loved God, and sought to do His will. The writer loved to tell the old, old story, and told it so well:

I'll count my blessings, count them o'er and o'er—

I'll tell my Father's goodness - I will love him more,

I'll count my blessings, bountiful and free—

Yet I can never count them all—so good is God to me!

Look at the rest of the world and you can easily sing this hymn. Yet I am only speaking in the material sense. We have so much in America. Just a walk from our borders and the picture is very different. Yet I am sure this speaks of spiritual as well as temporal blessings. The scriptures tell us to be careful that we do not forget the Lord after we have eaten and are full. The world at large has forgotten the Lord. Those who remember Him need to praise Him because there is so little praise to be heard.

Another number in the Black Book (#45) puts it this way:

O for a thousand tongues to sing

My dear Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King,

The triumphs of His grace.

If we do not offer praise unto Almighty God, the Rocks and all of creation will cry out unto Him. Blessed as we are, and knowing Him, it should not be hard.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Volunteer Service

Have you ever thought that you would like to give a portion of your life to helping others and serving in a mission setting? If so, you might want to consider work at the TORREON NAVAJO MISSION. If you like a variety of work and enjoy serving others this might be the work for you.

It is not too early now to seek the Lord's will in this area of your life. What better way is there to serve the Lord than to give a part of your life in this way? It would be a unique experience that would stay with you for the rest of your life.

We recommend this work for young adults who are serious-minded and would like to give God the first fruits of their life rather than waiting until later in life when business, family or health might hinder.

Brother David Skiles

MARRIAGE

STAUFFER - KEENEY

Brother Brad Keeney, son of Brother and Sister Lamar E. Keeney of Denver, Pennsylvania was united in Holy Matrimony with Kimberly Stauffer, daughter of Earl and Barbara Stauffer of Ephrata, Pennsylvania. The wedding was held at 10:00 A.M., August 3, 1996, at the Middle Creek Brethren Church, Lititz, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was conducted by Brother Jason Reed. The newlyweds reside at 390 Mountain Rd., Denver, Pennsylvania 17517.

NEWS ITEMS

HART, MICHIGAN

We, the Church at Hart, have been blessed in many special ways this past year. We give thanks and praise to God for all He has done in a lot of areas. We have witnessed several baptisms for which only God receives the glory. Nadine Marks and Corina Marks accepted baptism and were taken in as members in July 1995.

This past year, 1996, brought three more to accepting baptism. Jeremiah Johnson accepted baptism and was accepted as a member in July 1996. He and Debra Marks, (daughter of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Nancy Marks, Hart, Michigan) were united in Holy marriage on August 31, 1996. They reside at 1773 N. 136th Ave., Hart, Michigan.

Kevin Haines and Lucy Kasza also experienced baptism, and were taken in as members in September of 1996.

Kevin Haines, (son of Leland and Katie Haines, Detroit, Michigan), and Dorthy Marks, (daughter of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Nancy Marks, Hart, Michigan) plan, the Lord willing, to be united in Holy marriage, January 3, 1997. They will reside at 9541 E. Lane, Montaque, Michigan 49437-9351.

We the Hart Congregation, are happy to announce that we will host the Second District Conference. The date is set for April 4 and 5, 1997. Meetings will start with preaching Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Evening services will be at 7:00 p.m. Business meeting will be Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Examination service will be at 2:00 p.m. Lovefeast will be Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Sunday worship will be at 10:00 a.m. Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. We invite one and all to come and share this time of sweet fellowship. Come praying that souls might be touched by the Master's hand.

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Brethren and Sisters over the Brotherhood for the cards, prayers, telephone calls of Best Wishes for us on our 50th Wedding Anniversary. May God bless and keep each one in His love and care.

Thank You

Brother Warren and Sister Luella Smith

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1997

February 2 - Qualifications of Bishops and Deacons - I Timothy 3:1-16.

1. Why must a Bishop "Have a good report of them which are without?"

2. Explain "The mystery of Godliness."

February 9 - Godliness in the Last Days - I Timothy 4:1-16.

1. How can we discern if a teaching is from God or only of men?

2. What was Paul referring to when he said "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them"?

February 16 - Providing for Family, Widows - I Timothy 5:1-16.

1. Why should a widow be supported by her living relatives and not by the Church?
2. Define the term, "widows indeed", who should be relieved by the Church.

February 23 - Godly Leadership - I Timothy 5:17-15.

1. What did Paul mean, "Let the Elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour"?
- 2 How could we "Be partaker of other men's sins"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1997

February 2 - Faith - Luke 8:22-25, Heb. 11:6, James 1:5-6, James 2:14-26

1. In what/who must we have faith?
2. Explain the importance of the faith and works connection.

February 9 - Baptism - Matt. 28:19-20, John 3:1-11, Acts 2:38.

1. Jesus said we must be born of what two things to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. What is the purpose of baptism?

February 16 - Inward Fire - Luke 12:49, Luke 24:32, Rom. 10:1-13.

1. What kind of fire was Jesus talking about?
2. How can we tell if our inner zeal is of self or of God?

February 23 - Life's Purpose - Joshua 24:14-16, Matt. 6:33, John 4:34, John 17:4.

1. For what purpose have we been given life upon the earth?
2. Explain the principle Jesus gave to help us prioritize the things of life.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

FEBRUARY 1, 1997

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

COMING TO THE CROSS

I am coming to the cross;
I am poor, and weak, and blind;
I am counting all but dross;
I shall full salvation find.

Long my heart has sighed for Thee;
Long has evil reigned within;
Jesus sweetly speaks to me,
"I will cleanse you from all sin."

Here I give my all to Thee—
Friends, and time, and earthly store;
Soul and body Thine to be,
Wholly Thine for evermore.

Jesus comes! He fills my soul!
Perfected in Him I am;
I am every whit made whole—
Glory, glory to the Lamb!

-William McDonald

JOHN THE BAPTIST

When eight days old, John the Baptist was named and circumcised. During the time of Elizabeth's pregnancy, John's father, Zacharius, had been unable to speak because he did not believe God's promise that he would father a son. As they inquired the name the child was to be given, Zacharius had written, "John". After he fulfilled God's instruction concerning John's name, his tongue was loosed.

His first words were words of praise. He prophesied concerning John's part in proclaiming the gospel. Zacharius spoke of the coming of the Savior. The hope of all ages would be fulfilled as God prepared to bring His only begotten Son into the world. The birth of John was the beginning event in God's plan to bring salvation to His people. The people hoped for political and economic deliverance, but God was bringing them an even greater deliverance. He was bringing Spiritual deliverance to them. Zacharius could rejoice that God was making known this better way. His son, John, would introduce Jesus to the people.

Zacharius knew that John was the forerunner of the Messiah. He would awaken the people to their need of salvation. Their salvation would come through the remission of their sins. Sins separate men from God. They must be remitted, or done away with, if the people were to be saved.

John's ministry was to awaken the people to the coming Savior. By preaching, he hoped they would realize that their spiritual lives had not been pleasing to God. No longer would God wink at their sins as He had done in the past. Now all were responsible for their sins.

John would preach repentance and remission of sins. The people had a form of godliness but they were not motivated to live daily lives devoted to God. John would tell them that they needed to repent of their sins. They needed not only to sorrow for those sins, at the same

THE BIBLE MONITOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

time, they would have to be prepared to live differently. They needed to live according to the commandments of God. They could not depend upon their ancestry for their salvation, instead they needed to live a life pleasing to God. They not only needed to repent of their sins but those sins must be taken away before they could serve God as He wished. John would teach them not only repentance but also remission of sins.

Zacharius perceived John's message as an expression of God's tender mercy toward the people. It was the bringing of Spiritual light to a people who had been sitting in darkness. John's ministry was important because he introduced the Messiah to the people in a very personal way. Showing the people that they needed a savior, he prepared them for the coming of the Messiah who would appear soon after he began his ministry.

When John did begin preaching in the country near the Jordan River, he preached the repentance from sins and the remission of sins through baptism. He introduced a new concept by requiring his converts to be baptized that their sins might be washed away. The repentance he preached was not accomplished until remission had been completed in the baptismal waters. Jesus gave His assent to this method when He asked John to baptize Him. Although Jesus did not have any sins to repent of or to be remitted, He gave His approval to baptism by allowing John to baptize Him. He set an example of righteousness before all who saw Him or who have read of His baptism. John's baptism was not a man-made ordinance, for it had God's approval upon it as a necessary part of salvation.

John's purpose was to persuade the people to have a different view of their relationship with God. Until this time the Jews considered righteousness to be the result of birth into the Jewish race and a reverence for the Mosaic Law. These people were not concerned about their personal activities affecting their standing with God. They had been born into the Hebrew nation so they were a part of the Chosen People of God. They depended too much upon their blood lines. They thought of the Law as a part of their heritage, not as a teacher of righteous living. Keeping the law was an impersonal fulfilling of certain rites and obligations. It was not a dynamic force in their lives.

John came to awaken them from their Spiritual lethargy. He called them to daily lives of devotion and righteousness. He prepared them for the message of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Have you heard the message of faith, repentance and remission of sins? Is your life in accord with the will of God?

M.C.Cook

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1937

CLEAVING UNTO THE LORD

L. W. Beery

When one makes the good choice of renouncing Satan with all the

sinful pleasures of the world, resolving to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, it should be a complete renunciation of carnality and worldliness and a surrender without reservation to the way of truth and righteousness as it is given in the gospel. There is entirely too much half-heartedness in evidence among those who profess godliness which surely is not well pleasing unto the Lord. In the message to the Laodiceans (Rev. 3:16) the Lord stated, "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." So many professing Christians follow the world in all its styles, fashions, customs and practices when they are just the opposite from what the Bible teaches; this is nothing short of bowing down to Baal. In view of what the Bible teaches, such conduct is but mocking God. Speaking of the gods of the heathen, Jehovah stated this to Israel, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me." (Exodus 20:5.)

During the time of the early church the apostles were scattered abroad by persecution and some went to Antioch preaching, where a number of the Grecians turned unto the Lord. "Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." (Acts 11:22-23.) This exhortation of Barnabas should be given serious consideration by those who have started out in the Christian life; "for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith."

The Spirit of God prompted Barnabas to declare to these Grecians that with "purpose of heart" they should "cleave unto the Lord." The Lord knows, and Barnabas knew from experience, that exercising faith in God and living the Christian life brings upon one the reproaches and persecutions of the world. Unless one is firmly rooted in the truth there is great danger that the tribulations that try those who turn to the Lord, will cause offense and eventually repudiation of faith. Jesus recognized this possibility in giving the parable of the sower when he spoke of the seed that fell into stony places. In His explanation of the parable Jesus stated, "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended." (Matt. 13:20-21.)

In view of the persecutions and tribulations that harass and disturb the righteous in this wicked world, a choice to follow the lowly Lamb of Calvary must be backed by a strong resolution and a fixed determination to press on regardless of what comes. A faith of this kind is bound to succeed for to such the Lord giveth grace sufficient for victory.

These matters should be given serious consideration when one

starts out in the Christian life so that when the testing time comes he will be prepared. In his day, "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank," (Dan. 1:8) and when the testing time came the Lord was with him and helped him carry out his resolution.

At various times in the history of the Israelite nation the Lord reminded them that they should cleave unto Him; an example of this is given in Deut. 13:4, "Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep His commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve Him, and cleave unto Him." In turning to the Lord we vowed to live faithful unto death, surely, in view of the lightness, laxity and half-heartedness of professors today, we need to be reminded of our vows and our duty to our God.

David at one time declared, "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise." (Ps. 57:7.) No doubt much of his success as a man of God was the result of his fixed determination to cleave unto the Lord. May we each make good our confession and profession before the world by purposing in our hearts to live faithful to our Master now and henceforth regardless of what may be our experiences in life, and cleave firmly to the Lord.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58.)

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE 1997

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held June 6 through 11, 1997 at Maranatha Conference Grounds, Maxwell, Nebraska, thirteen miles east of North Platte on Interstate 80. Further details will be given later. Send reservations to:

Brother Jerry Moss

2475 240th St.

Dallas Center, IA 50063

Brother Marvin Haldeman

PO Box 304

Quinter, KS 67752

Brother Carl Reed, Locating Committee

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, we at Bethel Congregation, plan a one week revival, March 2 to 9, 1997. Brother Fred Pifer will bring the messages. Pray that we all may be true witnesses for Him.

Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

CONGREGATION	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Bethel, PA	Della Ebling	R.1 Box 300A, Bernville, PA 19506	215-488-7185
Broadwater Chapel, MD	Oscar Beeman	97 State Route 36N, Lonaconing, MD 21539	301-463-2859
Cleaville (Mission), PA	Eldon Mallow	R.1 Box 21, Clearville, PA 15536	814-784-3488
Dallas Center, IA	Ray R. Reed	302 Percival, Dallas Center, IA 50063	515-992-3031
Dayton, VA	Eugene Kauffman	313 Park Avenue, Broadway, VA 22815	703-896-3104
Englewood, OH	Paul Stump	10340 N. Diamond Mill Road, Englewood, OH 45322	937-836-6559
Goshen, IN	Mrs. Floyd Swihart	1903 W. Clinton Street, Goshen, IN 46526	219-533-3357
Grandview, MO	Carl E. Reed	4716 E. 139th Street, Grandview, MO 64030	816-761-5715
Hart, MI	Ronald Marks	1813 North 136th Avenue, Hart, MI 49420	616-873-2113
Littitz, PA	Rudy Shaffer	42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545	717-665-6686
McClave, CO	Warren Smith	26270 Highway 50, McClave, CO 81057	719-829-4521
Mechanicsburg, PA	John Peffer	150 Wolfs Bridge Road, Carlisle, PA 17013	717-243-8328
Mountainview, CO	Oty Reed	33720 RD 26, McClave, CO 81057	719-829-4511
Newberg, OR	Galen Litfin	1314 East 7th Street, Newberg, OR 97132	503-538-2668
Orion, OH	Mildred Kreiner	8426 Pleasantwood, N.W. North Canton, OH 44720	216-499-5143
Pine Ridge, MS	Maurice Wells	R.4 Box 126, Collins, MS 39428	601-785-4639
Pleasant Home, CA	Hayes Reed	1433 Overholzer Drive, Modesto, CA 95355	209-523-2753
Pleasant Ridge, OH	Tom St. John	20380 Co. Rd. R, Alvordton, OH 43501	419-924-5242
Plevna, IN	Harley Rush	P.O. Box 163, Converse, IN 46919	317-395-3751
Quinter, KS	Newton Jamison	512 Garfield, Quinter, KS 67752	913-754-3433
Ridge, WV	Otto Harris	H.C. 75, Box 131, New Creek, WV 26743	304-749-7518
Shrewsbury, PA	Jacob C. Ness	136 Homeland Road, York, PA 17403	717-741-1607
South Fulton, IL	Martha Harmon	R.1 Box 96, Industry, IL 61440	309-254-3258
Swallow Falls, MD	J.D. Dwight Snyder	6646 Garrett Hwy, Oakland, MD 21550-9231	301-334-2662
Torreon Navajo Mission, NM	David Skiles	HCR 79 Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013	505-731-2292
Walnut Grove, MD	Mrs. Howard Surbey	749 West King Street, Littlestown, PA 17340	717-359-4272
Waynesboro, PA	Frank D. Shaffer	13092 Grant Shook Road, Greencastle, PA 17225	717-597-7282
West Fulton, OH	Charles Leatherman	1-18158-H, Wauseon, OH 43567	419-337-6593
Winterhaven, CA	Milton Cook	1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223	909-845-6231

MINISTERIAL LIST

ANDREWS, MARK (M)
24407 South Overfelt Road
Peculiar, Missouri 64078
816-779-4204

AUNGST, DAVID (M)
R.3 Box 427
Pine Grove, Pennsylvania 17063
717-345-6588

BROSS, SCOTT (M)
70 Mackville Road
Myerstown, Pennsylvania 17067
717-933-4662

BURGESS, WAYNE (M)
Box 82
Hasty, Colorado 81044
719-829-4267

BYFIELD, PAUL (E)
2142 240th Street
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-2175

CARPENTER, ROBERT W. (E)
R.5 Box 97
Peru, Indiana 46970
317-395-7879

CARPENTER, WILLIAM (E)
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, Michigan 49256
517-458-6535

COOK, MILTON (E)
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, California 92223
909-845-6231

CORDREY, MARK (M)
1301 Dakota Avenue
Modesto, California 95358
209-549-2015

COVER, RUDOLPH (E)
2435 Temperate Avenue
Modesto, California 95358
209-521-5074

EBERLY, JAMES D. (M)
P.O. Box 504
Terre Hill, Pennsylvania 17581-0504
215-445-4515

FLORY, HARLEY (E)
27505 Flory Road, R.4
Defiance, Ohio 43512
419-497-3953

FUNK, KEVIN (M)
2417 N Avenue
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
515-992-3319

GISH, PHILIP (M)
750 Hufford Road
Casstown, Ohio 45312
937-339-5395

GUNDERMAN, TERRY (M)
22358 C.R.118
Goshen, Indiana 46526
219-875-7155

HARRIS, OTTO (E)
HC 75 Box 131
New Creek, West Virginia 26743
304-749-7518

HARTZ, PAUL A. Jr. (E)
157 North Lincoln Street
Palmyra, Pennsylvania 17078
717-838-1810

HEISEY, WILLIAM (E)
9956 U.S. Route 36
Bradford, Ohio 45308
937-448-2560

JAMISON, DALE E. (E)
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, Kansas 67752
913-754-3416

JAMISON, GORDON (M)
R.1 Box 136
Quinter, Kansas 67752
913-754-3639

JAMISON, HERMAN (E)
R.3 BOX 24-D
Quinter, Kansas 67752
913-754-3686

JOHNSON, FREDERICK (M)
473 Dame Street
Pettisville, Ohio 43553
419-445-4976

JOHNSON, H. EDWARD (E)
1307 S.H. 108
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
419-337-0251

KAUFFMAN, EUGENE (E)
313 Park Avenue
Broadway, Virginia 22815
540-896-3104

KEGERREIS, JAMES (E)
220 Narrows Drive
Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17046
717-274-6619

KIIZA, GODFREY (M)
P.O. Box 21188
Kampala, Uganda

KISEMBO, PETER (M)
P.O. Box 21188
Kampala, Uganda

LEATHERMAN, CHARLES (E)
18158-H
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
419-337-6593

LEATHERMAN, VIRGIL (E)
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, Pennsylvania 17340
717-359-5753

LEHIGH, ROBERT S. (E)
R.7 Box 7840
Spring Grove, Pennsylvania 17362
717-225-4928

LITFIN, GALEN (E)
1408 E. 7th Street
Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-538-2876

LORENZ, LLOYD (M)
R.4 Box 311
Peru, Indiana 46970
317-473-5045

MALLOW, ELDON (E)
R.1 Box 21
Clearville, Pennsylvania 15535
814-784-3488

MARKS, MARLIN (E)
3027 Acom Lane
Red Lion, Pennsylvania 17356-9782
717-246-9193

MARKS, RONALD L. (M)
1813 North 136th Avenue
Hart, Michigan 49420
616-873-2113

MEYERS, JAMES (E)
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
515-992-3947

MYERS, DENNIS (M)
2395 268th Lane
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-5357

NELL, PAUL L. (E)
Woodland Drive
R.6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, Pennsylvania 17403-9489
717-225-1663

NESS, JACOB C. (E)
136 Homeland Road
York, Pennsylvania 17403
717-741-1607

PEFFER, JOHN (E)
150 Wolfs Bridge Road
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013
717-243-8328

PIFER, FRED O. (E)
1734 240th Street
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-3187

REED, HAYES (E)
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, California 95355
209-523-2753

REED, JASON (M)
R.4 Box 66
Myerstown, Pennsylvania 17067
717-866-6489

REED, RAY R. (E)
302 Percival
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
515-992-3031

RENICKER, RODNEY (M)
6436 Covert Road
Modesto, California 95351
209-545-1478

RICE, DAVID (M)
4639 Addison-New Carlisle Road
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344
937-845-2128

RUSH, HARLEY (E)
P.O. Box 163
Converse, Indiana 46919
317-395-3751

SHAFFER, DEAN E. (M)
1461 West Key Parkway, Apt. 4
Frederick, Maryland 21702
301-663-3965

SHAFFER, FRANK D. (E)
13092 Grant Shook Road
Greencastle, Pennsylvania 17225
717-597-7282

SHAFFER, FRANK E. Jr. (E)
13055 Grant Shook Road
Greencastle, Pennsylvania 17225
717-597-4730

SHAFFER, RUDY (E)
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545
717-665-6686

SHELLY, EMMERT O. (E)
460 California Road
Littlestown, Pennsylvania 17340
717-359-4975

SHELLY, GALEN SCOTT (M)
537 California Road
Littlestown Pennsylvania 17340
717-359-8899

SKILES, DAVID L. (E)
HCR 79 Box 8
Cuba, New Mexico 87013
505-731-2292

SMITH, WARREN C. (E)
26270 Highway 50
McClave, Colorado 81057
719-829-4521

SNYDER, DAVID (M)
24056 County Rd.LL
McClave, Colorado 81057
719-829-4141

ST. JOHN, DENNIS (E)
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, Ohio 43506
419-428-2305

ST. JOHN, THOMAS (M)
20380 Co. Road R
Alvordton, Ohio 43501
419-924-5242

STUBER, RAY (E)
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, Pennsylvania 17322
717-246-1116

STUMP, PAUL (E)
10340 N. Diamond Mill Road
Englewood, Ohio 45322
937-836-6559

SWEITZER, MERLE (E)
255 Pleasant Grove Road
Red Lion, Pennsylvania 17356
717-244-7445

SWIHART, ROY J. (E)
17421 C.R. 14
Goshen, Indiana 46526
219-825-2277

UPLINGER, WILBUR L. (M)
R.2 Box 59
Mt. Crawford, Virginia 22841
540-828-6858

WALKER, HENRY (E)
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, California 95386
209-874-2832

WERTZ, LEONARD (M)
Box 178
Quinter, Kansas 67752
913-754-2390

WILKERSON, KENNETH (M)
1260 Pine Grove Road
Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania 17026
717-865-5852

WOLFE, KENNETH (M)
R.2 Box 112
Pine Grove, Pennsylvania 17063
717-345-8107

WRAY, MICHAEL (E)
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, California 95320
209-838-2760

DUNKARD BRETHREN DEACONS

Andrews, Larry
Armstrong, Ellis
Aungst, Dale
Beachler, Steve
Beeman, Oscar
Beeman, Steven
Birt, Harliss
Bittinger, Lester
Blocher, Dale
Blocher, Stephen
Boone, Barry
Brooks, Marion
Burtner, Clair
Carpenter, John
Castle, Keith
Cease, John
Clayton, Lawrence
Eberly, Marvin
Eberly, Paul
Eberly, Roy
Flory, Claude I.
Flory, Marvin
Gibbel, Levi
Gunderman, Reinhold
Heisey, Paul
Hersey, Steve
Hostetler, Don
Jamison, Marlan
Jamison, Newton
Jamison, Tom
Kasza, Eugene
Kasza, Tim
Kegerreis, Harold
Kreiner, Ted
Lichtenberger, Robert
Litfin, Doyle
Litfin, Ted
Lorenz, Carl
Lorenz, Doyle
Lorenz, Marvin

Marks, Charles
Marks, Paul
Meyers, Dale
Meyers, Dennis
Meyers, John
Meyers, Martin
Meyers, Roy
Miller, Kenton
Miller, Levi H.
Miller, Lynn H.
Musselman, Harold
Myers, Nelson E.
Myers, Paul B.
Newman, Dale
Noecker, Paul Jr.
Noecker, Richard
Peters, Ron
Pike, Lowell
Pike, Wayne
Pletcher, Albert
Priest, Duane
Reece, Dave
Reed, Carl E.
Reed, Harold W.
Reed, Oty
Rupp, Denver
Ruschhaupt, John
St. John, Clifford
St. John, Rick
Sensenig, Glenn
Siegrist, Tim
Sowers, Charles
Stauffer, Edwin
Swihart, Roger
Wells, Maurice
Wertz, Ivon
Wertz, Lee
Wertz, Richard
Wisler, John
Wolfe, Verling
Wyatt, Boyd

FEBRUARY 1, 1997 ISSUE STANDING INFORMATION

MASTHEAD

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223
 ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor; R.7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362
 RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545
 DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-County Road B50, Bryan, OH 43506

EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The following tracts are free:
 Please order from closest distributor:

Jacob C. Ness
 136 Homeland Rd
 York, PA 17403

H. Edward Johnson
 1307 S.H.108
 Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
 1734 240th St.
 Adel, IA 50003

Milton Cook
 1138 East 12th St.
 Beaumont, CA 92223

Why Triune Baptism
 Plain Dressing
 Which Is The Right Church?
 The Service Of Feet Washing As A Religious Rite
 What Shall I Do With The Commandments Of Jesus
 Daily Reminder
 The Lord's Supper
 The Doctrine Of The Prayer Veil
 The Brethren's Card
 Do You Want Salvation?
 Bible Teachings
 The Sabbath-Its Origin and Obsevance

PUBLICATION BOARD

BIBLE MONITOR (semi-monthly)
 \$2.00 per year in advance
 BRETHREN HYMNAL (heavy back)
 \$9.00 ea., \$105.00 doz. plus postage
 Church Manual \$1.00 ea.
 The Bible Outline \$.45 ea., \$.51 doz.
 The Old Testament History \$.55 ea., \$.65 doz.
 The New Testament History \$.55 ea., \$.65 doz.

Minutes of General Conference in One Volume

\$4.25 ea. plus \$.35 postage
 No charge for the following:
 Polity Booklet
 Instructions for Applicants
 Baptismal Certificate Blanks
 Credential Blanks

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations into paragraphs. Set these apart from the rest of the article by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words such as, "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", "etc." for "and so forth".

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references. Please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter, and verse. "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beleive" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church

property improvements and items, "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

Third Sat. March - Quinter, KS

First Sat. April - Dallas Center, IA

Fourth Sat. April - West Fulton, OH

Last Sat. April - Grandview, MO

Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA

First Sat. May - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA

Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA

Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA

Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA

Sat. before First Sun. Aug. -

Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. -

Swallow Falls, MD

First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD

Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA

Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH

Last Sun. Oct. - Bethel, PA

First Sat. Nov. - Pleasant Home, CA

First Sun. Nov. - Shrewsbury, PA

Second Sun. Nov. - Lititz, PA

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Marvin Lorenz

P.O.Box 62

Pioneer, OH 43554

419-737-2753

Rudy Shaffer

42 Doe Run Road

Manheim, PA 17545

717-665-6686

GOSSIP, BOTH, VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters is contrary to Scripture. It should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about those matters.

B. When advice is sought of an

official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members, who were not present, or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

CIVILIAN SERVICE BOARD

Ray R. Reed, Chairman
302 Percival
Dallas Center, IA 50063
515-992-3031

Jacob C. Ness, Exec. Sec.
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403
717-741-1607

Robert Carpenter
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970
317-395-7879

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
209-874-2832

Milton Cook
1138 East 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
909-845-6231

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
209-874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
515-993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
517-458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
717-359-5753

Tom Jamison
R.2 Box 30
Hoxie, KS 67740
903-675-3600

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Dennis St. John
21397-B50
Bryan, OH 43506

David L. Skiles
HCR 79 Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Michael Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Fred Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003
515-993-3187

LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES**BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA**

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, Exit 6. The Church and school are located together.

**BROADWATER CHAPEL,
MARYLAND**

Located on Savage River Road in Garrett County, Maryland

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on Interstate 68, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn left or south under the Interstate three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage River Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, West Virginia area travel east on Interstate 68 to Lower New Germany Road (Exit 24). Turn right, go three tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route 50 take U.S. Route 220 north. Take Maryland Route 135 at McCoole (just north of Keyser, West Virginia, on Maryland side of bridge) go seven miles on Route 135 (passing through Westernport and past WESTVACO Paper Mill) to Savage River Road. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn off Rt. 44 unto Quinlan

Avenue at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, three-fourth mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #245. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, 3.5 miles right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Ohio, Rt 40 and Rt 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County Rd 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana 15 to Goshen. Turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block. Turn left on West Clinton Street. Go one mile to Green Road, turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th Street. Turn west and go to second street, turn south one block.

HART, MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road. Turn right and go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into east and west and by Rt. 641 into north and south. The church is located on West Keller Street, (corner of Keller and Washington Streets), four blocks west of Market Street or Rt. 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle Interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at the Gettysburg Interchange, Rt. 15 will lead west to Rt. 114.

Brightbill's House - Located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave Junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

MOUNTAINDALE, MARYLAND

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountandale, Maryland, from the east go through the town to the west on the road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S.

15, this road crosses 15, a half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on U.S. 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one forth miles to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next directional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Avenue, Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Avenue to Claus Road (approximately six miles). Turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, turn left on Sharon. The Church is on the left.

Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five

miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Coming from the west to Ridgeville on U.S. 50, turn right on Knobley Road. Follow this road to the Antioch Church of God, where you will turn left onto an unpaved road. Follow this road to where the road forks, keep the right hand road to the Ridge church house.

Coming from the east on U.S. 50, turn left on Ridgeville and follow the above directions.

Coming through Cumberland, Maryland follow Route 220 south through Keyser, West Virginia to U.S. 50. Turn east on U.S. 50 and go to Ridgeville and follow the above directions.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Church address is: 2191 Swallow Falls Road., Oakland, MD 21550. Take Maryland Rt. 219 North of Oakland 5.5 miles or South of I 68, 18 miles to Mayhew Inn Road. West on Mayhew Inn Road to the stop sign (4.2 miles). Bear left onto the Oakland- Sang Run Road for .3 mile to the Swallow Falls Road. Turn right onto the Swallow Falls

Road for .3 mile. The Church will be on your left.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Church address is: 4000 Kump Station Road, Taneytown, MD 21787. From Littlestown, PA travel Route 194 south toward Maryland. After crossing PA/MD line (this is shortly after Kingsdale Firehouse on right), turn left onto second hard road on your left, which is Kump Station Road. Follow this road approximately one fourth mile to brick church house on right.

From Taneytown, MD, take Route 194 north three miles. Turn right onto Kump Station Road. Brick church house is on right, approximately one fourth mile.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on the corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Avenue, go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Avenue, turn right on Brookside (marked with Highland Springs sign) go to Jonathan, turn left, go one block to Lincoln, turn right and go to church, which is on left side of road.

MISSIONS**CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays at 10:00 AM.

**TORREON NAVAJO MISSION,
NEW MEXICO**

Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road leading to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Philip and Kelly Lapp; Angela Hill and Crystal Strite. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

**NOTICE CONCERNING
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the Editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving, please report a change of address promptly to the Editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

Also, it will be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete address and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the Editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

-Editor

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

FEBRUARY 15, 1997

NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I AM THINE, O LORD

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the pow'r of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in Thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour
That before Thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with Thee, my God,
I commune as friend with friend!

There are depths of love that I cannot know
Till I cross the narrow sea;
There are heights of joy that I may not reach
Till I rest in peace with Thee.

-Fanny J. Crosby

LOVE

Love is one of the most important subjects in our lives. Although we all know it when we feel it, it is difficult to define it. How can a person describe his feelings for his wife, his children, grandchildren or parents? How does a person describe his feelings for fellow believers? How can a man describe the love of God? These emotions are impossible to fully define or describe, yet they are very important to us.

There would never be any love at all were it not for the love of God, originally shown to man. Even those who profess to not believe in God's existence speak of human love. They could not have that love if God had not first shown love. Without His example, there would be no standard that would show man what love is or that it even existed. God showed His love originally in His creation of man and provision for him in his created world. He continued to show love throughout His dealings with humans. He eventually gave the greatest example of love possible. He gave His only begotten Son as the redeemer, who would pay the price for the sin of all. His love was so great that He bore the sin that separated all from God. God's great love overcame His perfect justice. All people can love God because He first loved them, although they did not deserve it.

Love operates where it is not appreciated. Love continues to hold out hope to those who are unlovable. Love does not look at the surface, but considers the heart. It is amazing how even the most unlovable characters in this world have people who love them and believe in them.

Spiritual love is the ultimate love for it involves God. The love for

THE BIBLE MONITOR**FEBRUARY 15, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

family and friends is expected. Spiritual love goes beyond natural love. It is based on God's love. It is a desire to show love as God shows love. This love is mentioned often in the New Testament. It is a love for those of like precious faith.

Our love for God must be more than just a pious expression. It must be demonstrated in our lives. It must be shown through our love for the Brethren. If we can not love our Brethren whom we have seen, how can we love God, whom we have not seen? It must be shown through our obedience to God's expressed will found in His Word.

The Apostle Paul gives us an insight into love in I Timothy 1:5. "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." He speaks of three necessary components for love to prosper. A pure heart, good conscience and unfeigned faith all have a part in Christian love.

The heart is the center of our human emotions. It is identified with love, especially on Valentines Day. Our emotions must be under the control of God's Holy Spirit. We can not truly express love if our emotions are out of control. When out of control, emotions can lead us into unwise pathways. If we operate our lives under the influence of uncontrolled emotions we will not be steady in any of our commitments. We will be drawn first to one extreme and then to the opposite extreme in our feelings and behavior. Our emotions must be under the control of God so they do not lead us astray.

A good conscience speaks of work of which we are not ashamed. If our conscience does not condemn us, our works must be right. The conscience of unbelievers can not be a trustworthy guide for they are seared. An unconverted person's conscience will lead him astray for it has not been made alive by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Only after conversion, can the conscience become a trustworthy guide. If the transformed conscience and mind do not condemn the acts of a person, then they may be all right. So a good conscience shows a life and labor that is acceptable to God.

An unfeigned faith speaks of the doctrine or teaching of the New Testament as it is applied to the Christian's life. It is the faith once delivered to the saints. It is belief and practice that conforms to the teachings given to the Church for Her benefit and growth. There must be a right doctrine for right works to be done. If the basis for work is wrong the works will not be right. The foundation must be square and firm, if the house is to be straight and steady. The foundational beliefs that govern our lives must be square and firm if our lives are to yield the fruit that God desires.

Our love for God, for the Brotherhood, for other believers is based

on a pure heart, a good conscience and an unfeigned faith. How does your love measure up beside this standard?

M.C.Cook

REPORT-AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

October 28, 1996

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

Word from Brother Godfrey and the Brethren in Uganda indicates a continuing interest in the message of the Holy Bible, and more prospective members of the Church are waiting to be baptized when Brethren Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer visit Africa in November.

The interest in the orphan children is much appreciated and their response to your letters and gifts to them we trust has been inspiring to you. We thank you for your support of the work. We give a friendly reminder to those who have agreed to sponsor and may have overlooked sending your support. If you need information on what you have paid, just let us know.

Individuals having contributed \$250.00 or more in any one check during 1996, will be issued a receipt in January. Those who contributed in lesser amounts but who desire a receipt for your composite offerings, may obtain the same by contacting us.

Your Board feels the need for workers to go to Uganda for support of the native workers there. We renew our appeal for anyone interested to please get in touch with us. May the message of Salvation go forth in Africa to the Glory of God.

Brother Ray R. Reed, Sec.

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Quarter Ending September 30, 1996

Balance 7-1-96	\$11,352.34
Receipts:	
Donations	6,064.31
Sponsorship	4,440.00
Reimbursement for air fare for travel not taken	<u>1,332.65</u>
Total Receipts	\$11,836.96
Disbursements:	
Travel	4,066.59
Banking Fees	10.00
Orphan Education	<u>7,200.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$11,276.59
Balance 9-30-96	\$11,912.71

Brother Mark Andrews, Treas.

REPORT-AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

January 9, 1997

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35b.

Sixty-eight precious souls were baptized when Brethren Rudy Shaffer and Paul Stump along with Sister Mary Stump were in Africa from mid-November to the first of December. There are five meeting places in Kenya and three in Uganda where services are held.

The Orphan Schooling Program has progressed fairly well, but the administrator of the Saint Barnabas School seems unwilling to work with Brother Godfrey and the Church for the January, 1997 school term. The General Mission Board met with the African Mission Board January 6 and decided to postpone sponsorship for one school term until arrangements could be made with another school. Hopefully, missionaries from the United States may go to Africa to help supervise the work. Our primary emphasis is to minister the Gospel to the unsaved and nurture the new Christians.

We have a number of requests for members' students to be sponsored both at Kampala and Kakumiro.

Those who have contributed \$250.00 or more in one check to the African Mission Board during 1996 will be receiving a receipt this month. If you have given lesser amounts and need a receipt, just let us know. God bless you for your gifts.

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

Quarter ending December 31, 1996

Balance 10-1-96	\$11,912.71
Receipts:	
Donations	8,219.50
Sponsorship	<u>4,990.00</u>
Total Receipts	\$13,209.50
Disbursements:	
Travel	1,215.50
Transportation (includes van expenses and public transportation in Uganda and Kenya)	5,515.00
Rent - Housing and Church	420.00
Banking Fees	<u>35.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 7,185.50
Balance 12-30-96	\$17,936.71

We implore your earnest prayers for the work in Africa that souls may be saved.

Brother Mark Andrews, Treasurer
 Brother Ray R. Reed, Secretary
 Brother Rudy Shaffer, Chairman

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

Evolution and the Horse

Whenever the theory of evolution is brought into question, its proponents wonder why. Evolutionary Creationists in the church today seem to be bewildered. They just wonder why we do not go to a museum of natural history and become educated. Of course that is where the "evidence" of evolution from the skeletal remains give credibility to their confused belief.

We have all seen the graduated skeletons of horses, from the little five-toed extinct horse bearing the label "Eohippus" to other now extinct breeds. These horses are all neatly arranged and identified so everyone with a normal IQ can grasp the whole amazing evolutionary process.

Geologists and paleontologists consider the evolvement of all living creatures from a common source, from simple to complex, from protoplasmic into fully developed as scientifically logical. They see the whole matter of evolution as an airtight case.

One museum has a placard on display which reads: "The subject of evolution has been considered as being opposed to religious principles. It is becoming increasingly evident, however, that a wider dissemination of the scientific data of biological evolution will have only one result - the building of a new and greater faith in life. It brings the realization of an upward trend in bodily function and mental powers. Is not this the best possible guarantee of future evolution toward something higher and better?"

What kind of reasoning is this? We are asked to believe in evolution which destroys the credibility of the Genesis story of the Bible and develops a newer and greater faith in life! Of course this faith is not faith in God.

Biological evolution is also called "dissemination of scientific data." What is this data? All the patched and added-to skeletons tell us very little. They probably tell us about the same thing as finding an old shoe in the sand and saying this is scientific data that someone wore it. Who says so?

The evolutionists argue that comparative anatomy is the key to their belief. The skeleton of a fish, a frog, a snake, a cat, a bird, all have similarities. Their muscular, digestive, circulatory and nervous systems seem to have many things in common. Whales have flippers, birds have wings, horses have forelegs, men have arms...so they must evolve from the same organism.

Of course there are many striking similarities in many of God's created animals. But this does not prove evolution. We all breathe the same air, eat similar food, have legs, ears, eyes and heads. All

cars have seats, headlights, steering wheels, tire and windshields. Are they all Chevys? Did they evolve from General Motors? Maybe they evolved from Fords!

The book "Adventures With Animals and Plants" says the fossils of horses tell "an astonishing story." We learn there that the oldest stratum contains the remains of a little creature, Eohippus, which lived sixty million years ago. This granddaddy fossil, about as large as a cat, had four toes on his front feet and three on the back. Do horses? Is he indeed a horse? What about his ancestors?

So, what do the skeletal remains of the horse prove? Does size prove evolution? If so, I wonder where short and tall nationalities fit in the schematic picture. Should not all the short people have lived millions of years ago and all the tall ones be alive today?

It is well known that the parts of horse skeletons have been found and reconstructed by imaginative artists. Elephants are known to be smaller today than most of their prehistoric ancestors. Why have horses become larger and elephants smaller? Probably by natural mutations which obviously work both ways.

Skeletons of horses are poor illustrations of evolution. If you start with a horse, you get a horse. From the most primitive to the most modern — a horse is a horse.

Another interesting sidelight is that some fossil remains of horses have been found in the same stratum as their purported progenitor, Eohippus.

We see tiny shetlands and giant Clydesdales today. If two of them were to be buried in the same layer of mud and become fossilized, would they present a classic case for evolution? I suspect this would be a scientific consideration.

Science would love to prove that all living creatures evolved from a single source. This information will never be available because GOD MADE ALL LIVING THINGS AND THEY WERE CREATED FULL GROWN AND COMPLETE. No amount of research or denial will change the truth of God's Word in regard to this awesome creation.

This same God who created all living things by the power of His Word created YOU...and created you to know Him and to love Him. He created you to believe in Him and His creative power. YOU CAN BELIEVE HIM. HE PROVES CREATION IN HIS WORD.

Brother Len Wertz

NEW VERSION THEOLOGY

Over the last number of years we have been introduced to a number of new versions of the Bible. If you are like me, you heard about the versions, but never took a close or critical look at them.

In reading the new versions, we, who are acquainted with the King James Version read the new versions "for clarification". Having a knowledge of the Scriptures, we do not look closely at the underlying changes in theology. We already have within our minds an understanding of Scriptural teachings and theology.

Contrast our understanding of the Scriptures with someone who never knew or studied the Scriptures. This is especially important if this person has been involved in a cult or false religion, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses or the Eastern Religions. As they read and study the Scriptures, provided they are open to new ideas and concepts, they are placing them in the context of their prior, misguided understanding, teachings, and concepts. Suddenly differences in theology become much more important, since they do not have an existing, sound, scriptural foundation upon which to build and place this newfound knowledge. Will or can someone new to the Scriptures, develop the same basic understandings that we have?

Also consider a few of the definitions of the Cults, and Eastern Religions. Christ is any fulfilled person, not our Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit is a spirit that is a whole complete person, and often refers to what we consider the fallen angels (daemons). Satan (often spelled Sanat) is described in terms such as "The Lord of the World", "The Light", "the fulfillment of all Wisdom", "The Savior", and commonly referred to as "The One". Demons are known as the Shining Ones, the symbols of wisdom. The Devil is the symbol of great strength. Sin is the Sumerian Moon God. All these are considered "divine beings", and are often referenced as the Divine One(s).

Many of us who have had occasion to talk with the Jehovah's Witnesses, know that they interpret Christ to be "a fulfilled man", just as any other man, "a son of God" or God's creation. Unless you carefully define the terms while you are talking with them, (such as who Christ truly is, and define Who the Holy Spirit is, and so forth) you and the Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon, for that matter, will be talking about two completely different beings, Christ and Man, but using the same terminology, having a completely different understanding even when you think you agree!

Listen to some of the titles of current cults, The Way (International), The Divine Light Mission, The Children of God, The Unification Church, as well as many others. Many of these

emphasize "our Divine Characteristics". Christ is either a fulfilled man, or a man who understood God, but not our Lord and Savior.

Further consider, the new translations are using similar terminology for Christ, "The One", "The Light" and so forth. Suddenly Christ is identified by the cults as Satan or some pagan God, in many passages of the Scripture. Certainly we recognize whom the Scripture is talking about, because we have a background of understanding. But look into the future, as false cults and eastern teachings become more prevalent. Will the doctrinal theology as we understand it in the scriptures stand up, or will it be confused in light of the "new-up-to-date terminology" where Christ is identified as "the One". I see numerous opportunities for confusion and consequential changes to fundamental beliefs, understandings, and doctrines.

Often as we read, we seldom consider the significance of certain words. Two words commonly used are "A" and "The". We seldom think of the significance of these two words. But consider the difference between "a" son of God, and "the" son of God. "A" son of God can be any human (especially those of the Eastern Religions, and Cultists) whereas "the" son of God narrows the understanding of the individual as being our Lord and Savior. "A" gospel is one of many, "The" Gospel is specific and numerous times these changes have been made in the some new versions.

The NIV is clear of this specific change, although in a number of places the Gospel has been changed to "good news". The change to "good news" the primary meaning of Gospel, to me, loses in part, the meaning of "God's Word", a meaning Gospel has acquired since its translation into English. However when I look at its translation in Strong's Concordance, the root Greek word means "Good News", so I cannot necessarily fault this translation change, even with the loss of meaning of God's Good News.

At what point do we become alarmed? How much liberty and latitude should the new versions of Scripture be given? Are they reliable? Likely we each have different answers to these questions. I have personally come to the point of viewing the New Versions as Scripture or the KJV as Scripture, but not both. There is too much difference and contradiction in theology between the two for both to be reliable. To me the KJV is much more cohesive. We speak of minor translation errors, and interpretation errors in the KJV, however, I find a consistent theology throughout the KJV. In the NIV I do not find consistent theology, and there are numerous places I see contradictions to the overall Scripture teachings, i.e., the Theology of Self later in this article.

I would like to point out that my comparisons are going to be

limited to the NIV as it is the most commonly accepted of the new versions. Also, be aware that there are different revisions of the NIV which may read differently.

to be continued
Brother Rudy Shaffer

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD

Acts 2:46-47, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking of bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Quote from FRUIT OF THE VINE A History of the Brethren 1708-1995 by Donald F. Durnbaugh. "...Brethren were very concerned with the unity of the body, and this could only be maintained, they believed, by loving church discipline. This concern had been present at the very beginning of the movement." Discipline was also exercised over cases of slave holding, military involvement, and heretical teachings, to name some of the most grievous infractions."

There are two errors that appear to be growing in acceptance within the earthly church as a whole. The first of these is that doctrine is divisive and should be avoided at all cost. The second related error is that all church discipline is a form of legalism and will result in the downfall of the church if enforced. We are persuaded that these two errors have helped to bring confusion within the Church, rather than the alleged unity, and has broken down true Christian fellowship and brotherhood.

Holy Scripture informs us time and time again that the first century Church strove to be in one accord. It also clearly indicates that this was not always accomplished. There are even examples given when the apostles themselves were not in complete agreement. We believe all disagreements were settled by what the early Brethren called "common consent." That is everyone finally agreed on the same thing. To do this meant that someone had to either change or negotiate his opinion.

The breaking of bread from house to house may have been in conjunction with the worship service, since the first services were held on Sunday in the homes as well as meeting in the temple on Saturdays. However, the opening verses speak of a daily meeting. This would appear to be before communal living was established (and later disbanded). While the Brethren are noted for fellowship at such special times as revival and love feast, we seem to have lost the daily

fellowship enjoyed by the first century Church.

That they ate their meat with gladness and singleness of heart speaks of a brotherhood as well as Christian fellowship. The first century Church, like the early Brethren, was very concerned with the unity of the body. Church history records that groups with false doctrines were present almost from the very start of the Christian church. The Bible records those who opposed the teachings of the apostles. If the mind of the modern Church would have been present, acceptance of these heretical groups would have been sought after rather than the stern warnings given against them. We would add a word of caution here. It is possible that we can become judgmental to the point where we are "playing God." We are persuaded that we must leave those who do not agree with the Brethren understanding of Scripture on matters not considered to be cardinal doctrines in the hands of God. However, we are just as convinced that our Brethren understanding of Scripture is the same understanding found in the first Century Church.

The Christian fellowship and brotherhood was brought to its zenith by praising God. In the eyes of many, the first century Church may seem to have been over-emotional. When Alexander Mack and Hockmann Von Hochenau were asked to describe their meetings, part of the response was as follows. "After they have read, they fall to their knees, raise their hands to God, and pray for their authorities that God might move them to punish the evil and protect the good. Then they praise God that He has created them for this purpose."

The fact that the first century Christians had favor with all people does not mean that everyone appreciated what they believed in or stood for since persecution was their lot from the very beginning. But when you stand for truth most people will respect that, even your enemies.

True Christian fellowship and brotherhood will result in converts. But it will only be those "such as should be saved." Those with truly repentant hearts who desire to become a part of this spiritual family.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #308

I DO BELIEVE

Father, I stretch my hands to thee,
No other help I know,

If thou withdraw thyself from me,
Ah, whither shall I go?

We have often told on these pages why we write, and why we speak the things spoken of in the scriptures. It is because we love the souls of men. We know that no one loves the souls of men like Jesus, and we try to point others to Him. We can spend our time in worldly entertainment, and we can read books that do little for our soul, but if you want edification and spiritual strength, nothing, short of the scriptures, will lift you up than the hymns of the saints. My favorites are Isaac Watts, Fanny Crosby, P. P. Bliss, and Charles Wesley, the author of the hymn before us.

Wesley's hymns do not waste words. This one, one of his best, tells of his utter hopelessness without God. Reading this hymn reminds one of Job as he called out to God in utter hopelessness, not knowing where else to turn. Also we think of Peter who spoke from his heart when Jesus asked if the disciples would also leave Him. Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

Author of faith, to thee I lift
My weary, longing eyes;
O let me now receive that gift!
My soul, without it, dies.

There is indeed nowhere else to go. All the religions of this world offer no hope to their believers because none have a leader who came back from the dead. The riches of this world do not satisfy, because all wealth does in most cases is foster greed for more. Satisfaction only comes when the soul has made its peace with God and is assured of its heavenly destination.

What did thine only Son endure,
Before I drew my breath?
What pain, what labor to secure
My soul from second death?

We cannot fathom the sacrifice of Christ. The love expressed to us in God giving up His only Son is impossible for our minds to comprehend. But we can try. This the author of this hymn did, and so must we. We must keep it ever before us. We must realize that this, the ultimate of sacrifices, was made for us. What a wonderful, sincere, all-encompassing Love this is! What a crime not to share this with the world!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1937

AVAILING PRAYER

B. E. Kesler

Prayer has been defined as "The soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed." But to be effective, it, as all other acts of the Christian must be in harmony with Bible teaching. We are told, "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." From this we learn prayer may avail.

On a certain occasion when Jesus was teaching on prayer, He gave the disciples a model prayer and said, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven," and so forth. On another occasion when He was praying, His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray as John also taught his disciples. "And He said unto them, when ye pray say, Our Father which art in heaven." From this we learn our Lord taught this prayer twice which emphasizes its importance, and enjoins the use of it.

Prayer then, can be taught and learned, just as any other act of obedience. And when we familiarize ourselves with its wording, it is easy to obey in this matter. Just how often we are to use this prayer is optional with us. Custom says use it in the opening and closing of our services, which is appropriate, at least; and meets the requirements of scripture teaching on its use.

As to the nature of prayer it should consist in prayers, supplications, intercessions, and giving of thanks; and in its scope, be "for all men; for kings, and for rulers, and for all that are in authority."

And should include the fatherless, the widows, orphans, and the poor and needy, with all the unsaved; and especially God's children. Prayer should be made for all Christian endeavor also, and specifically for the ministry and the work of the church in general.

In manner prayer should be "with the spirit, and with the understanding also." The spirit of humility, reverence and devotion, should be manifest in prayer. And in addition thought, meditation and study should be given to prayer. Mere repetition of words, or formal repetition of a stereotype form of prayer is not prayer. Unuttered prayer may be more effective than uttered prayer if it is in harmony with the Spirit, which "maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Then too, prayer to be availing, must be persistent. Importunity is an essential characteristic of prayer. The "borrowed loaves" explains this. Not that the Father doesn't know our wants and needs, but to show our sincerity and earnestness.

Faith is an indispensable element in prayer. For "without faith it is impossible to please him." We must believe we receive the things we

pray for. This can be done only when we are governed by the conditions that enter into effectual prayer.

When these conditions are met, we may confidently expect results to follow. Then "if we ask we shall receive, if we seek, we shall find, and if we knock it shall be opened unto us." Then "the prayer of faith shall save the sick," and other desires will be met. The answer may not come in our way but in a better one. Every sincere prayer offered in harmony with God's will, will be answered; and "whatsoever we ask of him, we receive, because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

"Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Prayer to promote sinister motives, or pecuniary and selfish interests, will not be answered and should not be. But when we can unreservedly say, "not my will, but thine be done," we may be assured we will get the right answer. In our anxiety to accomplish a certain desire, we may overlook the conditions necessary to make our prayer avail. In such cases, we may not expect an answer.

"Pray without ceasing," does not mean, pray without cessation. It is well to have stated times for prayer, but we are not supposed to be praying all the time. We have to give time to other affairs of life, as well as to prayer. Daniel was a praying man, but he had his time for it - "three times a day." Jesus and Paul were praying men, but they prayed as occasion impressed them. So we may "pray without ceasing" and not be praying all the time.

The blunt and abrupt change from the general, to the Lord's prayer so noticeable in some, may be overcome by a little thought and attention. Some connecting clauses of this nature: "This we ask in the name of Him who taught us to say, Our Father which art in heaven, and so forth, or in whose name we call thee our Father, and so forth, or at whose command we call thee Our Father, or still, in whose name we look to thee as Our Father, and so forth," may be used. Then too, the use of the Lord's prayer may be improved and made more impressive by quoting it verbatim. It is hardly to be expected we may improve on our Lord's own wording of it. We should be as careful to quote the Lord correctly in this, as in any other of His words.

TORREON MISSION NOTES

PERSPECTIVE FROM A HIGH MOUNTAIN

One of the highest points (over 12,000 feet above sea level) in Navajoland is Mount Taylor. Standing at the peak of the mountain one can see for approximately one hundred and fifty miles. Much of

the reservation can be seen from that point, including Torreon, Ant Hill and surrounding areas. Within the area that can be seen from this mountain lies the Eastern Navajo Agency which is the home of around 27,000 Navajos. (From Navajo Nation FAX Book, 1988.)

Considering the practice of native ceremonies, witchcraft and traditions that still hold strong powers over the people that live there, we can only say that it has been and still is one of the strongholds of Satan.

At another time in history, two men stood in the stronghold of Satan at Gilgal. (Joshua and Caleb.) That land was also a bulwark of idolatry under evil kings who succeeded Jeroboam. Joshua's observation was, "...there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Caleb's response was, "Now therefore give me this mountain..."

As we survey the great task of taking the gospel to those who live in Satan's domain, will we flee saying there are giants in the land or will we with Joshua and Caleb say, "...give me this mountain..."

Brother David Skiles

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1997

March 2 - The Value Of Godliness With Contentment - I Timothy 6:1-11.

1. How does being discontented affect our Godliness?
2. Why does covetousness bring sorrow instead of happiness?

March 9 - Laying Hold Of Eternal Life - I Timothy 6:12-21.

1. What was Paul referring to when he said, "Keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable"?
2. Paul said we should be rich in what?

March 16 - The Purpose In God's Calling - II Timothy 1:1-18.

1. For what purpose has God called us?
2. From where does the spirit come?

March 23 - A Good Soldier Of Jesus Christ - II Timothy 2:1-14.

1. What "hardness" should we endure as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
2. Explain, "If we be dead with Him, we shall also live with Him."

March 30 - The Resurrection - Matthew 28:1-20.

1. For what purpose was the stone rolled back from the door of the sepulchre?
2. Why did Jesus go into Galilee after His resurrection?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1997

March 2 - Consecration - Phil. 3:1-14, Rom. 12:1-2.

1. How can our bodies be a sacrifice while we are living?
2. Explain the difference between conformed and transformed.

March 9 - Does It Pay To Pray? - I Sam. 1:27, Matt. 6:5-13, Acts 4:31, Ps. 91:15.

1. How can we determine whether we are truly praying or only offering vain repetition.
2. Why are we commanded to ask God for our needs when He already knows what we need?

March 16 - The Beatitudes - Matt. 5:1-12, Luke 6:20-23.

1. What does the word "Beatitudes" mean?
2. List each condition mentioned and the blessing Jesus said would accompany it.

March 23 - Goals - Phil. 3:1-14, Matt. 25:1-13.

1. What was Paul's goal for his life?
2. What was the goal of the five wise virgins? The five foolish virgins?

March 30 - The Resurrection - Matt. 28:1-20.

1. Why did Jesus allow the angel to announce His resurrection to the women before showing Himself unto them?
2. Why did the Jewish leaders want to silence the Roman soldiers regarding their experience at Jesus' tomb?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

MARCH 1, 1997

NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THY PRESENCE, GRACIOUS GOD AFFORD

Thy presence, gracious God afford;
Prepare us to receive thy Word;
Now let thy voice engage our ear,
And faith be mixed with what we hear.

Distracting tho'ts and cares remove,
And fix our hearts and hopes above;
With food divine may we be fed,
And satisfied with living bread.

To us thy sacred Word apply,
With sov'reign pow'r and energy,
And may we, in thy faith and fear,
Reduce to practice what we hear.

Father, in us thy Son reveal;
Teach us to know and do thy will;
Thy saving pow'r and love display,
And guide us to the realms of day.

-John Fawcett

SIX DAYS

A question that bothers many Christians is, "How should a Christian use Sunday?" How many of the laws applying to the Old Testament sabbath apply to the Christian's day of worship? There were stringent laws concerning the use of the sabbath. The Church has been reluctant to make a list of approved and unapproved activities for the Christian on Sunday. There is a realization that circumstances might make some rules unfair and others useless.

The resurrection of Jesus upon the first day of the week made it special. No longer would men end their week by giving God the last day of their week, now they would begin their week by setting aside the first day for His honor. How could they best honor Him on that day? God had set apart the seventh day as the day of rest and worship in commemoration of His rest following the creation of the world. He wanted men to follow His example. (We have a similar example in the New Testament when the sinless Jesus demanded that John the Baptist baptize Him as an example for all.) The day of rest, the sabbath, on the seventh day celebrated God's creation of Adam. The Christian sabbath, the first day, celebrates the Spiritual re-creation possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Second Adam.

There were serious penalties for those who broke the laws concerning the sabbath. With all the laws and penalties concerning keeping the sabbath, there soon arose a feeling that the keeping of these laws was more important than the principle behind the laws. The day was not kept as a time of worship but only to fulfill their legal requirements. People will ignore or rebel against unfair or useless

THE BIBLE MONITOR**MARCH 1, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

regulations. There will be no realization of the Spiritual principle behind the requirements. Laws kept merely for the sake of law-keeping soon become totally disregarded. The law will be a dead letter instead of an encouragement to follow deeper Spiritual lessons.

The Church has recognized that there are necessary labors that must be performed, even on Sunday. Farmers must take care of their animals. Health care providers must care for their patients. There are other occupations of equal importance. At the same time, there are many using the day by not honoring God or tending to any necessary activity. There are businesses that could just as well be closed this one day. The pursuit of the last dollar possible has dulled the minds of many businessmen. They fear they could not conduct a profitable business unless they stayed open on Sunday.

Sunday is not only misused as a day for normal business activity, it is abused as a day for recreation. In concept, recreation is for the restoring of the body and mind by providing a diversion from the usual activities of life. Recreation now flourishes on Sunday. These organized, recreational activities often include the sponsorship and advertising of alcoholic beverages.

How many Christians attend, support and participate in these recreational events? Is their involvement consistent with the purposes of the day? Is there not enough business and recreation on the other six days of the week? It would hardly seem necessary to be involved in these unnecessary activities on the one day set aside for rest and worship. How many Christians are absent from stated worship services because of their attendance at these functions? When a final account is taken of the Christian's life and influence for good, how will his indulgence in these activities be regarded?

When God delivered the Ten Commandments to Moses, He gave fuller explanations of the first four Commandments, which covered a person's relationship with God. The fourth Commandment was to keep the day of rest a holy day. It was not to be used for ordinary purposes. Man had been given six days to labor in business or recreation. He needed to come apart, rest and worship, rather than continue the same activities.

This day of rest has been proven physically beneficial for humans. The human body can perform at its best for six days. When required to do more, the lack of rest and refreshment of mind causes a breakdown in the body's ability to cope with the stress and strains of life. God does know what is best for people, not only Spiritually, but physically as well.

Is Sunday just another day? Is it special in how it is to be observed? There are many reasons for its specialness, besides the command to

keep it holy. It tends to a person's physical and mental well-being. More importantly, it improves the Spiritual lives of those who take seriously the purpose for which it was given.

How do you use Sunday? To God's glory or according to your own design?

M.C.Cook

THE ABIDING

I Cor. 13:13, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I began with the thought of these three virtues, but first I would like to look at the thought of abiding. The dictionary gives these definitions, among others: "To wait patiently for", "to withstand", "persevere under", "to remain in one place or state", "to continue", "endure", "to dwell or sojourn".

The Apostle uses the term here to indicate that these three things cannot be changed or destroyed. God abideth. Gen. 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Gen. 17:1, "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." Ex. 3:14, "And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus, shall thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you." Mal. 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed." II Tim. 2:13, "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: He cannot deny himself."

His word abideth forever. Psalms 119:89, "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Mark 13:31 and Luke 21:33, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." I Pet. 1:23, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." Please read Heb. 12:18-29 taking note of verses 25-29.

Who may abide? Malachi asks the question. Mal. 3:2, "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:" Psalms 15:1-5, "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor

taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved." Psa. 91:1, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Prov. 19:23, "The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." John 15:4-7, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." I John 2:6, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." II John 9 "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

May God bless you all.

Brother William Carpenter

AN OBJECTIVE LOOK AT ENVIRONMENTALISM

Psalms 24:1, "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein."

During the 1950's, a new concern entered into the work of the earthly church. Orators and writers began to dwell on the preservation of our earthly resources.

Strangely enough, about the same time, Biblical issues were being ignored, challenged or re-interpreted. Society was moving toward a time of new enlightenment and understanding. The rules for moral accountability were quickly taking new twists and curves.

Television was becoming a common entertainment center in the home. To compete Hollywood began a rigorous movement to make their movies more "true to life." Self-imposed and government codes became more and more lenient. In a few short years, television met the challenge and became raunchier and raunchier. At this time a truly amazing thing took place. Fewer and fewer churches objected to members attending Hollywood movies. Only a few denominations and independent groups urged their members not to have television in their homes.

What was once considered pornography became regular viewing available on the television and movie screens. Before too long even

the commercials contained questionable content. Other types of advertisements quickly followed suit. Today, advertisements in newspapers, magazines and billboards contain pictures that at one time would have been ruled indecent.

While all of this was taking place a great concern was being expressed about the preservation of animal life, rivers, lakes and streams and the environment in general. Truly Romans 1:25 was becoming a reality in our day. "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, Amen."

About the same time as this new emphasis concerning the preservation of earthly resources, a new understanding of end time prophecy was being espoused by both liberal and conservative proponents. II Peter 3:10-11, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.", was no longer taken literally. The teaching of a general resurrection was discarded and challenged by many who formerly taught it as Scriptural truth. Soon, many were teaching that the earth would not be destroyed but renovated. Revelation 21:1 still reads, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away,..."

Without taking away from the concern we have addressed, we wonder if perhaps the pendulum has not swung to the opposite extreme. In embracing a literal six day creation in place of humanistic or theistic evolution we affirm the truth that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." If this is Scriptural truth then we should be concerned about God's creation. Just as we can not deny our peace position because it has been adopted by some false cults and distorted by advocates of political pacifism, we can not refuse to share our concern about the preservation of God's gifts of earth's resources to us because it has been made into a false worship.

What we do have to avoid is the inconsistencies of popular teaching today. To be more concerned about whales or seals than human babies is ludicrous. It is almost unbelievable that some who protested the game shooting of pigeons spoke out in favor of abortion! While we should be concerned about the proper use of the land God has provided for the growing of crops, we should be more concerned about the fertile minds of our young people which are being destroyed by drugs, unscriptural sex and other aberrations. While the pollution of the

water God has given us is a valid concern, the pollution of the temple of God, our bodies, must be given preferential concern.

The concern about our environment will not help to save one soul from the horrors of Hell, which is also being challenged today. If your life is filled with the filth of sin, the blood of Christ can cleanse you and make you a part of God's new kingdom with all purity.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

NEW VERSION THEOLOGY

Continued from February 15, 1997 Issue

The scriptures I have looked at are difficult at times to classify into similar groupings. Also to shorten the length of the article, I have taken the liberty (and risk of your disagreement) to shorten some of the verses when I felt little understanding would be lost.

Let us look at some of the theology that we hold and understand, but remember this is just a sampling of many changes in theology.

The Theology of Fasting and Prayer

We feel that prayer is important to each Christian. In addition, we feel that our prayer, spiritual life and understanding are enhanced by fasting. KJV: Mt.17:21 and similarly Mk.9:29, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." NIV: Mt.17:21 deletes the entire verse inferring prayer and fasting are not important. NIV: Mk.9:29, "He replied, This kind can come out only by prayer." Failure is apparently only because of a lack of faith in Mt. 17:20. There is no pointing to a remedy for a shortfall of faith. Obviously prayer only is important, but fasting is unimportant.

KJV: Mk.13:33, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." NIV: "Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." Being on guard and alert, does not mean one is in prayer or watchful for the coming events prophesied by the scriptures. KJV: II Cor.6:5, "In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;" NIV: "In beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;" Certainly we are hungry when we fast, but is there a reason to hunger (fast) or is it not important?

KJV: II Cor.11:27, "In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." NIV: "I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked." Was Paul deprived of food (a possibility in Acts

16:25-34), or was he short on funds so that he could not buy food, or was there some other problem? Nothing is said about Paul fasting.

KJV: Acts 10:30, "And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing." NIV: "Cornelius answered: Four days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man..." Again no mention of fasting.

KJV: I Cor. 7:5, "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency." NIV: "Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together..." Again no mention of fasting. Fasting is primarily mentioned in the NIV when Jesus was tempted, and when Jesus spoke about fasting, but examples of the brethren fasting are deleted as shown above.

The Theology of God

We believe that God is Triune, God the Father, The Son - Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. But in the NIV it has become the Christ of "The One". When we read the verses below, remember we are acquainted with the Scripture, but adherents of Eastern religions and Cults believe man becomes God. Many believe "The One" is "Lucifer, the bright and morning star" which is not according to scripture.

KJV: John 6:69, "And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. NIV: "We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Holy One...One (sexless) meaning One God...or the Holy One of many Gods or Christ Jesus? Nothing is said about Him being the Son of God or being Christ Jesus. Yet, in I Peter 2:6 "the one" who trusts in him will never be put to shame. Is "the one", man or Christ?

KJV: Mk.12:32, "And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he." NIV: "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him." "God is one", precludes the Trinity, as such there is no other, no Saviour or Holy Spirit.

KJV: John 1:18, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father he hath declared him." NIV: "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." Does "no one" include the heavenly beings? This would say to me, if God the one and only is Christ, and that He and He only has seen God, not even the Holy Spirit or the angels have seen Him. I find "God the one" confusing

here when in the previous verse it is stated that God is one. Is God "the One" or is Christ God "the One"? The KJV is criticized for being confusing, but this is more confusing than how the KJV states it here.

KJV: Mt.19:17, "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." NIV: "Why do you ask me about what is good? Jesus replied. There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." Who is the "One" who is good? Depending on your orientation, it can be God, Jesus, Man or even Satan. Instead of improving clarity as to whom he is speaking about, it becomes even more unclear. From reading we would surmise it is not Jesus as he was talking about another One. Yet, in the NIV, "the One" is often Jesus! Confusing!

KJV: Mr.23:8, "But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." NIV: "But you are not to be called Rabbi, for you have only one Master and you are all brothers." We only have one master. Who is it? The boss, our husband, or our wife? Again this is unclear. In the KJV there is one who is their master, Christ, not ONE MASTER. We may have many earthly masters, but Christ is our supreme master. Another loss of clarity.

KJV: III John 1:7, "Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles." NIV: "It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans." Who is the person or God of "the Name" (Christ's name is not even mentioned in III John). Also, the term "pagans" could possibly include unbelieving, reprobate Jews.

KJV: Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." NIV: "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." Call on his name. Whose name? A common person?. To the adherent of a cult or some Eastern Religion, who is the Righteous One referred to previously in verse 14, Christ or Satan? Or is it referring to the Lord's name?

There are many more scriptures one could reference on this subject. When we realize that "The One" can be Lucifer, and Christ is often changed to "The One" in the NIV, one begins to question whom we are worshipping. Further, the term Christ is "any fulfilled person" in many Eastern religions and the cults. If one takes time to search the Scriptures, many times "Lord", "Jesus", "Savior" and other identifying titles are being dropped and only "Christ" is retained. To have a One World Religion needs a Common Belief. We now have a common Deity: self. According to these religions, we are gods! Along with this

we are approaching a common scripture terminology.

KJV: I John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." NIV: "For there are three that testify: (then directly to Vs. 8 Spirit, Water and Blood.)" Is the witness of the Trinity in heaven not important?

KJV: Acts 8:10, "To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. NIV: "And all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." I understand the power of God, but not the divine power known as the Great Power. Whose power? This sounds confusing to me, and the purpose of the NIV is to clarify! (Satan is considered divine in many false religions!)

To be continued.

Brother Rudy Shaffer

DO YOU TRULY LOVE GOD?

Do you truly love God? Or is what you call "loving God" merely self-deception? It is in your own interest that you always should be appraising your personal relationship with God. When judgment comes, you are not going to be judged as a family or church member, to whom we may have passed some of our spiritual responsibilities. You shall be judged alone, by yourself.

We, frequently should consider the first and most important Commandment, and reflect upon what it requires of each of us. Just because we attend church services, contribute a few dollars to the church, and recite a brief daily prayer, which is often little more than a petition for the things we want, does not mean that we "Love the Lord, our God, with our whole heart, our whole mind, and our whole soul." Such a relationship requires much more than a passive relationship! The First Commandment means, very literally, what it says. It calls each of us to be involved in an intimate and loving relationship with God.

While studying the Scripture is a rewarding activity, it is simply learning about God, which is very different from being involved with God in an intense relationship and expressing our love.

Most of us should reevaluate our love affair with God, if indeed we have one to reevaluate. Many devout people have learned, through long experience, that such a relationship requires a full hour a day, alone in the presence of God. This time of devotion may well include personal prayer and adoration, the deep contemplation of your love for God, and his love for each one of us. There should be some prayerful quiet time, when we wait upon the Holy Spirit to lead us and provide a

sense of direction for our lives. If you will dedicate your life to doing God's will, be quiet and listen, the Holy Spirit will change your life. You will discover that it is indeed possible to meditate on your love of God for one hour, because the Holy Spirit will be there with you, lovingly holding your hand. He is your guide and comforter.

Thinking yourself too busy for God is a serious symptom of your great need to develop a personal loving relationship with God. Has not the Lord given you twenty-four hours today? Are you so foolish, as to think, that you can not return just one of those hours to Him? Is there so little gratitude in your heart?

May our Lord bless and inspire you.

Brother Allen Smith
900 West Main Street
Ephrata, PA 17522

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #299

FLEE THE DANGER

Mark 12:34, "...Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

It would be a good thing in this day and age to think about the purpose of the Church. Why are we here? Why does God leave us here after we are saved, rather than calling us home immediately? The writers of "Flee the Danger" knew why. Jesus loved the souls of men. He knew their weakness. Jesus calls to men today:

Flee the danger, the danger,
Oh, enter the haven of rest;
Flee the danger, to Jesus return,
Oh, come, and forever be blest.

In the scripture text Jesus was speaking to a man who was very close to salvation. This is the time the devil is trying to divert your attention. The power of the tempter grows stronger. Do not delay. God's pleading you soon may not hear. I have said it before on these pages, and it can be said again: if you meet Jesus, you will never be the same afterward, whether you are converted or not. You never go away from Him the same. If you take Him as your Lord and Saviour, He will renew you daily. He will give you peace and joy and happiness: joy unspeakable and full of glory! You will have a witness of His goodness to share with the world.

But if you reject Him, and act not upon His pleadings, and turn your back on His gentle entreaty, your life will be most miserable. Those who turn away from God do so at a maddening pace, their life filled with sin in an effort to drown out the call of the Holy Ghost, or with searching

in an effort to hear the call again which ceased. Eve partook of the forbidden fruit while the Words of God rang in her ears. Flee the danger! Do not let Satan get the advantage! Do not heed him! Enter the Haven of Rest. When a person is drowning he often struggles against the one who is trying to save him. In a similar fashion, one that God is trying to save often struggles against the Saviour. Relax and stop struggling with God. He only seeks your well-being. Heed the words of the song writer:

The Savior is earnestly calling,
In accents so tender and strong.
Oh, can you resist all his pleadings,
Or slight offered mercy too long?

The day of Grace is soon coming to an end. God said in Genesis 6:3, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." All you need to do is ask someone who has heard the call of God but rejected Him, and how God is silent.

Flee the danger! Enter the haven of rest!

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1937

PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS

J. H. Beer

(Col. 1:19-20) "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell. And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven." The age in which we are living is a boastful age, prone to exalt the power of human genius, human inventions and human capability without recognizing the power and authority of God. Without God we get nowhere on the highway of real success. God has given us proof of wisdom and love in the providing of the sacrifice of his only begotten Son for the sin of the world. Now, if we reject the blood of Christ, and then exploit one's own proud schemes of social betterment, exterior improvements and humanitarian sympathy, we must fail. What would you think of a railroad engineer who would say that he was so well skilled and so capable as to how to run it, and that his capability brought him such a good salary, that he knew better than the year-men, train dispatchers how to run his engine. The engineer sees a red flag down the track, but he decides to

disregard it, for he knows so much more than those train dispatchers about running the engine why should he submit his superior skill to those reds on the track. He decides to disregard the red altogether. Is not his hand on the throttle, and is not his superior skill of more value than these rules of railroading? The train is a heavy one, loaded with human freight, but he pushes right on past the red flag and into an open drawbridge—a hundred people are killed.

That engineer had better not have been so skillful and drawn less pay, and put his work in breaking that locomotive into scrap iron with a sledge hammer, than to have disregarded that signal. His whole fund of knowledge and skill made him a dangerous man when he disregarded the rules.

“Running Past Calvary.” Men who today advocate the application of human skill, and human resources for the cure of human ills and sins are disregarding the “red.” It is the red of Calvary. People may be persuaded to join the church by the appeal made in behalf of civilization, education, and social uplift, rather than come as sinners to accept the Savior. But from the very churches they join they will fall into greater condemnation and at length into destruction, it is the old delusion fed by vanity, causing people to pass the red.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission. It is the sin of Cain still bringing forth destruction. He who knew no sin became sin for us. We must deal with the precious blood of Christ. “We were not redeemed with silver and gold...,” (1 Pet. 1:19.) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (Eph. 1:7.) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. (Ex. 12:1-23.) The Passover lamb was a type of Christ. When they were to leave Egypt they were commanded to sprinkle the sideposts and top post of the door with the blood of the lamb for the Lord was to pass through the Egyptians that night. Where the blood was applied as directed the Lord passed over and they were safe, but there was death in homes of the Egyptians, both of man and beast, from the king down.

You may call this slaughter-house religion if you feel better by doing so, but there is one undeniable fact, where the Lord saw the blood applied they were saved. This Lamb was a type of Christ, the Lamb of God. For even Christ, our passover was sacrificed for us. If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sin. If you want salvation get under the blood. Don't trifle with God's plan.

TORREON MISSION NOTES

GIANTS IN THE LAND

Wherever the name of Christ is proclaimed, giants will soon show their ugly faces to threaten, intimidate and attack the good name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Giants are long-lived, many having been around since Bible times.

A local family lost three young children; two with heart defects and one with a respiratory problem. In the Navajo way, everything has to be explained. Not having Christ as their PROTECTOR and SAVIOUR, it is natural for those with a background of superstition and fear to attribute the loss of their babies to witch-craft. Knowing the powers of Satan, it would be foolish not to consider their reasoning seriously.

Freedom obtained through a full surrender to Christ not only brings one freedom from sin but gives one power to slay the giants of superstition and fear.

However one does not have to be a part of a native culture to be attacked by giants. Multitudes who are a part of the American culture are falling prey to the giant: greed, materialism and power.

"Some trust in chariots and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." Psalms 20:7.

· Brother David Skiles

OBITUARY

ELIZABETH ALLTUS

Sis. Elizabeth (Betty) Alltus was born July 24, 1901, and departed this life December 29, 1996, at the age of ninety-five years, five months and five days. She was born in the township of Allegheny, Pennsylvania. She lived in Modesto, California sixty-six years. Elizabeth was the daughter of Samuel Blair and Ella May (Hoover) Hoover.

She is survived by two sons, Vernon Alltus of Modesto, California and James Alltus of Sacramento, California; brothers, Elmer Hoover of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, Orville Hoover and David Hoover of Modesto, California and Leslie Hoover of Citrus Heights, California; one sister, Mary Clapper of Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania; nine grandchildren; twenty-two great grandchildren and ten great-great grandchildren.

Elizabeth was baptized at Cushing, Oklahoma on September 2, 1913, at the age of twelve years, and became a member of the Church of the Brethren. She later transferred her membership to the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church in Modesto, California.

Elizabeth was married to Allie Lee Alltus on May 5, 1927.

Sister Alltus leaves to mourn, her family, friends and members of the Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder Hayes Reed assisted by Elder Henry Walker.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The new address of Elder Merle Sweitzer is 13227 Fishel Road, Felton, PA 17322-8274. His new telephone number is 717-993-2637.

Brother Dean Shaffer's new address is 1205 Danielle Drive, Frederick, MD 21703. His telephone number has been changed to 301-682-5236.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have Revival Meetings, March 21 through 30, with Bro. Kenny Wilkerson as our evangelist. We plan to close with a Lovefeast on Saturday, March 29, with services beginning at 11:00 A.M. All who can come are welcome to worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, the Fourth District Meeting will be held the weekend of March 28 through 30. There will be preaching service on Friday evening.

Then the Business Meeting will be held Saturday morning, with our Lovefeast in the evening.

Sunday morning there is an Easter Sunrise Service, followed by regular services.

We extend a hearty welcome to all who can come and enjoy the fellowship and blessings with us.

Sister Blanche Newman, Cor.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all the Brothers and Sisters who remembered me on my "80th" birthday with cards and remembrances.

Sister Edna M. Flick

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Jacob C. Ness, Secretary
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Tom Jamison
R.2 Box 30
Hoxie, KS 67740
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

MARCH 15, 1997

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SING WITH ALL THE SONS OF GLORY

Sing with all the sons of glory, Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, To the former days belong
All around the clouds are breaking, Soon the storms of time shall cease,
In God's likeness, man awaking, Knows the everlasting peace.

O what glory, far exceeding All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading, Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it, There on high our welcome waits;
Every humble spirit shares it, Christ has passed th' eternal gates.

Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices; Jesus lives who once was dead;
Join, O man, the deathless voices, Child of God, lift up thy head!
Patriarchs from the distant ages, Saints all longing for their heaven,
Prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages, All await the glory given.

Life eternal! O what wonders Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amidst earth's closing thunders, Saints shall stand before the
throne!

Oh, to enter that bright portal, See that glowing firmament,
Know, with Thee, O God immortal, "Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent!"
-William J. Irons

PATIENCE

God values the characteristic of patience in a person. It is one of His attributes that He wants re-created within His followers. God has given us an example of patience in His dealing with mankind. If He had not been patient with us as a race and as individuals, we would have been without any hope in this life. His patience gives us the hope of a far better future beyond this life. God has given many promises to us but they have not always been fulfilled quickly. He has tested and extended our patience by His delays.

God works on a different timetable than we do. He looks at millenniums as days. What seems to us to be a long time, is as no time at all to Him. We think a hundred years is a long lifetime. Compared to God's eternity, it is but a drop in the bucket. Since we can not view time in the same terms, we have a difficult time being as patient as He is.

Patience is not just waiting. It is an ability to do what is expected although there are no immediate results. Folding the hands and rocking away the time is not the kind of patience He is looking for. He is expecting that our lives which are devoted to Him will produce a Spiritual effort in His service.

The events of Biblical History often played out very slowly. God gave the promise of sending His Own Son very early in man's history. Right after Adam and Eve's Fall in the Garden of Eden, God not only dealt with their sin but also gave them a promise of the coming Messiah. Certainly that prophecy was a long time in being fulfilled. There was a need for much patience to be displayed by those who lived between the time of giving of the promise and the time of fulfillment.

THE BIBLE MONITOR**MARCH 15, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

When the fulfillment of a prophecy is a long way off, it is natural to not be as concerned with the faithful fulfillment of duties along the way. It is easier to be faithful when there is an immediate fulfillment of the promise. Jesus spoke of wicked servants who did not do their absent master's will. They were not careful for the well-being of the Master's servants or property. As the master delayed his return, they became less and less faithful in the performance of their duties. The same thing may happen to those who are supposedly serving God. They may over the course of time grow lax in their fulfillment of His will. As we look at professed Christianity, today, we see a lessening of desire to be precise in doing His will.

God's timetable operates on a different level than man's calendar. He understands how much time is needed to bring His promise to perfect manifestation. The perfect timing for this manifestation was according to God's understanding not mans. He brought many lines of prophecy and promise together into the fulfillment of His promise.

The coming of the Messiah was the fulfillment of His promise in Genesis. When He came as a babe laid in a manger, more faith and patience was needed then if He had come forth full-grown and full of action. Instead, He first grew to adulthood. At that time, He instituted a teaching ministry rather than an active, judgmental ministry. He did not reveal Himself on a grand scale as had been expected. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

His mission was to do His Father's Will. The fulfillment of His mission demanded patience to go through with all that was necessary. After His death on the cross there was still a time of waiting until He was resurrected. He had been lain in the burial cave, wrapped in graveclothes, the door had been secured and guarded but He came forth in triumph. He had accomplished the task that had been set before Him. He had patiently endured all that had come His way.

Now that He has accomplished His mission of making possible the salvation of men's souls, He has ascended into Heaven to await the time of His second appearance upon this Earth. This provides a time that demands patience in those who have enlisted to serve our Heavenly Father.

His followers must be patient during the time of awaiting His coming again. This patience demands faithfulness. It is not a time of simple waiting. It is time of doing, although the reward may not be immediately visible.

How patient are you? Patient enough to await the return of your Lord and Saviour?

M. C. Cook

OUR RISEN LORD

II Corinthians 4:14, "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you."

There is much confusion within the earthly church as to who the Lord Jesus Christ truly is. Recently we had correspondence with an individual who stated that he believed that Jesus Christ was God but not deity. This is, perhaps, the ultimate confusion!

We read in I Corinthians 15:47 (comparing the Lord Jesus Christ with the first man, Adam) "the first man is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from heaven." Here we have the greatest mystery yet the grandest truth of all the ages. Jesus Christ became a man yet He was and is the Lord from Heaven. Lord (with a capital "L") is a name reserved for God.

One of the greatest of the mysteries of Jesus Christ in the flesh is the fact that He voluntarily laid aside His equality with the Father during His sojourn on earth. However in John 17:5 the Lord Jesus Christ made this petition to the Father. "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." We believe that after His resurrection the Lord Jesus Christ was granted His petition in full.

The fact that I Corinthians 11:3 "...and the head of Christ is God" reveals an order of headship even after the resurrection does not change the fact that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all equal. Many things within the pages of Holy Scripture cannot be fully explained by human wisdom and knowledge but must be accepted by faith. The failure to do this has resulted in higher criticism which is a denial of Scriptural truth.

Our risen Lord is Lord of the universe. Colossians 1:16-17 tells us, "For by him (The Father's dear Son, verses 12 and 13) were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." There is much speculation today as to whether or not life exists beyond the earth. Contrary to popular thought, if life were to be found in space it would not prove the theory of evolution. It would merely prove that God created life elsewhere. We seriously doubt if there is intelligent life anywhere but on earth. A newspaper commentator who appears to be an agnostic at best stated that if life were found on another planet that life would not know anything about Jesus Christ. We are not sure what he thought this would prove since there are places on earth where people have never heard the name of Jesus Christ. The Bible would indicate that this is because of the worship of false gods in past history. These false

gods are, in reality, demons and Satan himself. While they rule the hearts and lives of many, Jesus Christ is still Lord of the universe. We, of course, recognize life in Heaven, although this cannot be compared with life here on earth.

Our risen Lord is the Lord of the Church. In Colossians 1:18 we read, "And he is the head of the body, the church:..." Man, down through the ages of church history, has tried to replace the Lord Jesus Christ with human authority. One of the reasons the Brethren avoided an ecclesiastical church hierarchy was that they realized that no man had this type of power. They also realized the potential for the mis-use of authoritarian rule by one individual. This is why they set up a means of order in the church consisting of a body of elders. This does not guarantee that every decision will be one agreed on by all the membership but it does eliminate replacing the Lord Jesus Christ with a man.

Our risen Lord wants to be Lord of our lives. In Colossians 1:28 we read, "Whom we preach, (Jesus Christ), warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." Each man and woman has a free will to accept or reject Jesus Christ as Lord of their life. But we do not believe that we have the option, as is popularly taught, that we can accept Him as our Savior without acknowledging Him as our Lord.

If we accept Him as Lord and Savior then "he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise us up also by Jesus." The apostle Paul adds, "and shall present us with you." Praise the Lord! The saints of all the ages will be resurrected at the same time. Our soul, if we have already died, will return from Heaven and be united with a glorified body. Then we will have joy unspeakable and full of glory with our risen Lord throughout the timeless ages. Glory! Hallelujah!

Brother James M. Hite

816 E. Birch St.

Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

THE AGE OF VICTIMIZATION

"But I couldn't help it!" is the cry heard on all sides these days. If someone commits a crime, it does not take very long until he or she is blaming everything and everybody except themselves.

A man, who was the Chief Executive Officer of a bank, seemed to be an upstanding citizen for many years. Then, one day, he was charged with doing something seriously wrong in the bank's business. The board of directors fired him. The FDIC and the FBI became involved in the investigation. This was a shock to the community. After consultations with his lawyer and a psychologist, as well as with other therapists, the former bank officer claimed that he was abused

as a child for five or six years. According to the "experts," this supposedly led to a "diminished mental capacity" which in turn led the man to commit the crime.

Now, I do not want to minimize child-abuse. It is a problem in our society. It's wicked, but there are so many accusations floating around today! As soon as somebody does anything wrong and they get caught, they immediately (after counseling!) claim that the reason they did wrong was because something was wrong with their upbringing! After hearing this excuse over and over again, it becomes...

Instead of me telling you what I think, let's turn to the Word of God and see what Scripture has to say about this AGE OF VICTIMIZATION.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." (James 1:13-15.)

This business of "passing the buck" all began in the Garden of Eden, when God called unto Adam, after he and Eve had partaken of the forbidden fruit. Adam blamed his sin on the woman, and the woman blamed her mistake on the serpent. Men and women have become so adept at "buck-passing" until nobody is responsible for anything, anymore!

Are you something less than a perfect human being? On what do you place the blame for your sins and shortcomings?

People blame genetics for a propensity toward alcoholism, a tendency to being overweight, loose morals, bad temper, and being just plain stubborn. They believe they are the way they are because they were born that way, and there was really nothing they could do about it.

Another excuse people give for being sinful is their environment. Perhaps they were brought up in a bad home, or had a materialistic father. They also blame other people, as well as their circumstances, for their problems. "I know I'm on a diet, but the food at the smorgasbord was so good!" (Never mind that I CHOSE to go to the smorgasbord!)

Ben Franklin supposedly said, "The person who is good for excuses is good for little else."

A fifth scapegoat folks blame for their sins (are you ready for this?) is God. In Adam's statement of passing the blame off to the woman, was not he really blaming God? After all, God had given him the woman.

Ultimately, God is where all blame is placed, because obviously

God could have changed the circumstances, or the genetics, or the family, or the environment, and so forth!

Is God responsible for our sin? James 1:13 flatly states that temptation does not come from God. When I sin, I am to blame. I am responsible. When you sin, you are to blame.

So what should we do about sin?

1. **FACE THE SIN SQUARELY.** We need to acknowledge the sin as our own. We need to believe I John 1:8 which says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

2. **CONFESS THE SIN BEFORE GOD.** We do not change first and then go to God. We need to go to God first. Act on the promise given in I John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

3. **ASK GOD TO HELP OVERCOME THE SIN.** We ought to ask God for help every morning as we face each new day! Our struggle with sin is never over while living on this earth. So do not be discouraged by the temptations of life.

A good way to start conquering the sin problem is by continuing to read from James 1. We need to have the courage to DO James 1:25, which challenges us to look into "the perfect law of liberty" just as if we were looking into a mirror. We are supposed to be honest enough to go ahead and look into the mirror of God's Holy Word and face up to the fact that there may be some things in our lives that are not supposed to be there. We need to acknowledge that they are our own fault, and that something should be done about it!

So instead of **BLAMING** our problems on someone or something else, we conclude that through accepting responsibility, we can begin the journey toward overcoming sin.

Brother Robert Lehigh

NEW VERSION THEOLOGY

Continued from March 1, 1997 Issue

The Theology of our Faith

We believe our faith is Based on God and His Word. It is a serious business which we need to attend to diligently.

KJV: Mk. 1:1, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;" NIV: "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Is this gospel inspired and given of God and Christ or is it just a story or history about Christ?

KJV: Rom. 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." NIV: "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," If we are in Christ Jesus, does it make any difference if we walk in the flesh or Spirit?

KJV: Acts 17:22, "Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious." NIV: "Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious." Now, men's superstitions are accorded the respectability of being very religious although they were idol worshippers.

KJV: Col. 2:16, "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days;" NIV: "Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day." It's party time — festival time — celebration time. Forget the Holy Days!

KJV: Eph. 5:9, "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)" NIV: "(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)" What ever happened to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Turn on the light switch instead. Is it just the word of God that changes our life, or does the Holy Spirit work in our life to affect the change? The Work of the Holy Spirit in John 16 and I Cor. 2 is to convict of sin, the righteousness of God, the judgment to come and lead us into the understanding of the truth (revealing the light of the Gospel).

KJV: Acts 22:16, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." NIV: "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name." I always felt we called on the Lord for Salvation — not some "nameless individual".

KJV: Rev. 1:5, "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," NIV: "...To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood," Are our sins washed away, or have they been freed - set loose - floating around somewhere to be faced in the day of judgment?

KJV: Col. 1:14, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" NIV: "In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." The standard comment about the new versions is that they minimize or come to no Blood cleansing.

In KJV Isa. 53:10 speaks of Christ making his soul an offering for sin. NIV states that it was a guilt offering. Is there no sin atonement, only an offering for our feelings of GUILT?

KJV: Mark 10:21 Jesus instructed the rich young ruler to sell all that he had and give to the poor and to take up the cross. In the NIV the Cross apparently is not important, for he is still promised his

reward without being commanded to take up his cross.

The Theology of our Self

KJV: I Cor. 9:27, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." NIV: "No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." Who said works are not important? We beat ourselves (to a pulp?) corresponds with many pagan religions which teach that they must deface/abuse themselves in order to be accepted of their God. Bringing our body into subjection (under control) does not mean we beat our bodies.

KJV: Gal. 6:17, "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." NIV: "Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus." Bearing the marks "on" your body, makes it known that the Lord has "beaten us." Do not just be transformed and be made a new creation in Christ. Again, Pagan faiths desire the marks of their God on their body.

KJV: Gal 5:2, "I would they were even cut off which trouble you." NIV: "As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!" Since when do we wish for those who trouble us to castrate themselves!?? (Easier to read? I needed to look at the dictionary to confirm that it said, what I thought it said.)

KJV: Col 2:23, "Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honor to the satisfying of the flesh." NIV: "Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence." To neglect one's body (i.e., appearance) is not necessarily to harshly treat it (as advocated by many pagan religions).

KJV: Gal. 6:4, "But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another." NIV: "Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else," I thought the Christian was to put aside pride, not put it on. Proverbs calls it one of the seven sins the Lord hates. Similarly compare James 1:9-10, II Cor. 5:12, II Cor. 1:12 and 14 (Boast).

Mark 7:22 in the NIV does not list Pride as a sin.

II Cor. 2:13 changes "That ye do no evil" to "anything wrong." Evil is sin. Doing wrong may not be sin. I went to the wrong address. I was wrong, but it certainly was not a sin.

I Tim. 3:2, 3:8, 11 and Titus 1:8, 2:2, 4, 6, all speak of church officials and their wives as being sober, grave and discreet. Usually

the NIV translates these as self-controlled, worthy of respect or temperate. I see sober, grave, and discreet as being much more (these describe character) extensive than self-controlled or temperate or even worthy of respect. Acts 6:3 they were to look for honest and wise spirit filled men, but the honesty is not a qualification in the NIV.

Similarly, "shamefacedness and sobriety in dress", in I Tim 2:9 is termed, "decency and propriety." "Shamefacedness and sobriety of extreme modesty and lack of pretension or show", is a much stiffer qualification than "decency and propriety."

The Theology of Wealth

We believe we are to be rich in Christ and that this world's goods are short lived.

KJV: Prov. 21:21, "He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour." NIV: "He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor." Is righteousness equated to prosperity. This truly is a health and wealth theology!

KJV: Prov. 8:18, "Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness." NIV: "With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity." Pardon my ignorance, but I thought Wisdom was the topic in this chapter, and durable riches was the product of being wise in the Lord, more than just earthly wealth (very un-endurable).

KJV: Jer. 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." NIV: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Is there a difference between peace and prosperity? Prosperity does not necessarily mean to increase wealth, but that is its primary meaning.

To be continued
Brother Rudy Shaffer

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

The Age of Permissiveness

Today it seems that all Christian issues have to be approached from a politically correct perspective. It would seem that the Bible is no longer as clear as it used to be in regard to simple answers to people's problems. This has helped lead to a new permissiveness, even among Bible believing people.

Absolutes seem to be hard to identify. Morality, in its traditional form, is thought to be the vestigial remains of a superstitious and puritanical era. Moral ethics as taught in the Bible are ignored.

So what is "in" if the Bible is "out" for so many people? It is the

"new Morality" and age of permissiveness. Many of us look at it as a bad dream but I doubt if it will be short-lived. It is difficult to accept the new leniency which has permeated Christian homes, the educational system, legislative bodies and even our churches. Are we concerned or are we just indifferent? Should we drop old morals and draw up a new set of rules to govern our behavior? Should we base these rules on human desire instead of Divine commandment?

The term, "AMORALITY" has become acceptable. We understand that an immoral person is in violation of moral principles. On the other hand, an amoral person lacks a sense of right and wrong. He really just does not care.

Why is there amorality and permissiveness? Could it be that the Bible no longer occupies a place of authority in our homes and Churches? People scoff at the idea of the Bible being the uncontested Word of God. Without understanding that basic truth, we just play the game of life without rules.

How long will we get by with our moral dereliction? Will our permissiveness really free us from primitive superstitions and hazardous repression? Is uninhibited sexual behavior the cure for man's "hang-ups?" Traditional ideas of right and wrong no longer are used to judge right and wrong. Modern books tell us we can operate at our own level and there will be no harm in doing this. We need to understand that the harm is incalculable. Homes are being broken, morals shattered, and lives destroyed.

The so called "sexual revolution" is eating away at our society, like alcohol consumption, is slowly destroying the anatomy and fiber of our lives. It is like playing Russian Roulette with our lives. We seem to be surviving for a time but the effects of this sin are crippling.

If moral laws reacted as sharply to their violation as physical laws, none of us would be here to evaluate them. It would make us wonder if God has not slowed down the retributive qualities of moral failure to provide more time for repentance and the blessing of forgiveness.

Legalization of pornography, sex education in the schools and liberal abortion laws have done unbelievable damage to all the citizens of our nation. We are not immune. We are exposed to the backlash of these wrong decisions almost daily as Christians.

We have not experienced emancipation. The predictable end of all of this is a society in turmoil. If you have traditional and Biblical concepts of right and wrong, you are considered by your peers as naive and "square." The fuse which has been lighted by the new permissiveness has reached the explosive stage. What an explosive it is. Crime is growing, militants outnumber the law enforcement people, and the court dockets are full. America has embarked on a course that must be reversed or even more ominous things will come

to pass. What has been paid already is only the first of several installments.

Throwing away guidelines is not fulfillment. The new morality is not working. It is causing a surge of suicides which has now become one of the leading causes of death in adults. In fact, among college students, it is the third leading cause of death. Does this sound like people are getting a fulfillment message or is it obvious that they are now experiencing hopelessness in what has become to them a meaningless world?

Beloved, we ARE worth something. God was so impressed with the worth of man that He sent His only Son to die to redeem us from the curse of sin. Our only hope is to find that personal relationship with Him. It is necessary for our nation to do the same. Problems in human relationships only come into proper perspective when our relationship with the One who Created us, saved us and who gave us eternal life is alive and fulfilling.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1937

GOD'S PROMISE

Ida M. Helm

"Consider that this nation is thy people." And He said, "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." And He said unto him, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence." (Ex. 33:13-15).

Moses knew what it meant to have God's presence with him when the plagues sent by God to prove His supremacy over the idol gods of Egypt and the power of His outstretched hand over man, beast and nature had kept the Israelites free from the plagues and led them safely through the Red Sea. Israel had experienced the wonderful deliverance, and they knew of the terrible afflictions with which Egypt was visited and it made the presence of Jehovah God more real and wonderful. When the Israelites trembled at the approach of the enemy who were following hard upon them, Moses shouted with the authority vested in him by God, "Stand still and see the salvation of God." (Exodus 14:13).

Their greatest danger was not so much the enemy approaching, the mountains, the wilderness or the threatening sea, but was their forgetting the power of God and His presence not being relied upon.

The Master's presence is appreciated most when the waves are rolling and the tempest raging. "And the Lord said, speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." (Ex. 14:15).

And the angel of God which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went before their face and stood behind them." (Verse 19). It came between the enemy and Israel. It was Israel's strong defense. The Egyptians had only the lifeless, helpless forms in their idols. Israel had the true God, the all powerful creator of the universe and their song of victory echoed through those rugged mountains while the Egyptians were left dead in the midst of those dark waters.

When the world jeers and scoffs at the followers of Christ and calls Him an old foggy and narrow and queer it is easy to reach out into the world and lay hold of one or more of its pets, thinking the Christian life will appear easier if it is a little more conformed to the world and finally one may substitute a counterfeit religion for the true. Then the true religion will go and with it the power of God. Then we must humble ourselves and get close to God again, put away the counterfeit to which we are holding and repent and God will forgive us and take us back to Himself and His power will again be with us. "My presence shall go with thee and I will give thee rest." This is a personal promise. No uncertainty here to the Christian. He is the Friend whose love and pardon have been accepted and if we obey His will His presence brings peace and rest such of which this world knows nothing, and to the justified soul resting in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ it is an impregnable fort. It was not the power of the Hebrews that brought them out of Egypt. It was not the power of Moses that brought them out; it was the Lord that brought them out. It was when they had faith and obeyed when Moses told them to stand still and see the salvation of God that deliverance came, and this condition is handed over into the Christian church.

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left, hasten not nor grasp at God's gifts but receive them in God's way. At one time King Saul had been expressly charged to await the coming of the Prophet Samuel to offer an offering to God in Gilgal. When the seven days required to wait had run their course and Samuel did not appear, Saul's intention to await God's time gave away and he offered the burnt offering and no sooner had he finished the offering than Samuel came. This was a trial of Saul's obedience and fidelity to God. If Saul had regarded the command as coming from God and had really wished to obey God he would have waited. How often when we do things in a hurry we afterwards have to regret it. This showed a lurking disobedience in Saul. In his impatience he disobeyed a plain command of God. Listen to the prophet's rebuke to Saul, "Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which He commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue:

The Lord hath sought him a man after His own heart." (I Sam. 13:13-14).

What a sameness there is in human nature today. But the long suffering patience of Christ still calls us to repentance. We are all tried in one way or another and how often we stumble or fall flat. If Saul had obeyed God and waited a few minutes longer he would have been spared the penalty of the sin. Saul forfeited God's favor, also the valuable friendship of the prophet, and was rejected from being king for disobedience.

It is not enough to pass through one trial and not fall; through our whole life we are on trial. It is not enough to rigidly obey God in the letter of His commands, we must obey in the spirit of love. Jesus said, "The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him." (John 4:23). Saul was a religious man in his own way but not in God's way. He considered his very disobedience a religious act. He deceived himself by offering a sacrifice contrary to God's command, rather than go into battle without sacrifice and fancied he was religious without obeying God strictly.

Just any sort of religion will not do. It must be the religion appointed by God, then His presence will go with us and His presence with us in this life and His approval of our daily living means everlasting life.

"Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward. But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it; and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea." (Ex. 4:15-16). Moses obeyed, Israel obeyed, and the presence of God was with them and they had a wonderful deliverance.

NEWS ITEMS

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Revival Meetings are scheduled for March 28 through April 6 at the Lititz Congregation, with Brother Mark Andrews as the speaker. We invite your presence and prayers for the meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend the services at 7:30 each evening, and 9:30 Sunday mornings. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalm 34:3.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR

The Editor wishes to thank everyone who has remembered me during my recent hospitalization, surgery and convalescence. I especially value your prayers, which have provided my real strength.

During the recent period of change involving the Bible Monitor, the

Editor wishes to thank everyone for your patience. It has been a time of change for the Editor, the Publication Board, the printer and the mailing company. Your continued support will be much appreciated. May all be to God's glory and honor.

Brother Milton Cook

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Congregation is looking forward to a week of Revival Meetings, beginning March 30 through April 6, 1997, the Lord willing. Bro. Tom St. John from the Pleasant Ridge Congregation, Ohio will be our evangelist. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon him as he labors here in our midst. We covet your prayers in his behalf and ours, that we would be built up and strengthened in our walk, and that souls might be garnered into the fold in these last days. We plan to have Lovefeast services on April 5 and 6. We welcome all who can to come and enjoy the blessing of worshipping the Lord together.

In His Love,
Sister Arlene Flora, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1997

April 6 - A Vessel Unto Honour - II Timothy 2:15-26.

1. How can we rightly divide the word of truth?
2. "The Lord knoweth them that are His." How can we know if we are one of "them"?

April 13 - Dangers In The Last Days - II Timothy 3:1-17.

1. Explain how it is possible to have "A form of godliness" but deny "the power thereof."
2. What kind of persecution does Paul expect the believer to suffer?

April 20 - Preaching And Learning Sound Doctrine - II Timothy 4:1-8.

1. What determines whether or not our doctrine is "sound"?
2. How can we have assurance, as Paul did, that "there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness?"

April 27 - God's Hand Of Protection - II Timothy 4:9-22.

1. Do we really ever stand completely alone when we stand for truth and right?
2. The only way to be spiritually delivered and preserved is through whom?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1997

April 6 - God's Ways - Psa. 18:30, Isa 55:8-9, Rom. 11:33, Rev. 15:3.

1. How do the ways and thoughts of man compare to those of God?
2. Explain how God's ways are "past finding out."

April 13 - The Talents - Matt. 25:13-29, Luke 19:12-24.

1. What are the talents which are hidden in your life?
2. What have you profited for the Lord with the investment He has made in your life?

April 20 - The Rich Young Ruler - Matt. 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-22.

1. In what was the rich young ruler really lacking?
2. What is it about riches that hinder entrance into the kingdom of Heaven?

April 27 - Good Samaritans - Luke 10:25-37.

1. What are the responsibilities of a neighbor?
2. Where do the responsibilities of a neighbor end?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

APRIL 1, 1997

NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SWEETLY RESTING

In the rifted Rock I'm resting;
Safely sheltered I abide;
There no foes or storms molest me,
While within the cleft I hide.

Long pursued by sin and Satan,
Weary, sad I longed for rest;
Then I found this heav'nly shelter,
Opened in my Savior's breast.

Peace, which passeth understanding,
Joy the world can never give,
Now in Jesus I am finding:
In his smiles of love I live.

In the rifted Rock I'll hide me
Till the storms of life are past,
All secure in this blest refuge,
Heeding not the fiercest blast.

-Mrs. Mary D. James

COME APART AND REST

The lives of most adults today are too busy. We are involved in far too many activities. We have to earn a living. We are involved in our children's activities. We may be involved in community activities. We try to accomplish other worthy goals in our daily swirl of activities. Sometimes we become so busy, we hardly seem to accomplish much of anything. We have become "burnt-out".

With all our doing, there is a lack of satisfaction in our accomplishments. We have worked until we hardly know where we will get the next needed drop of energy. Having expended our energy in these activities, we do not have enough emotion left to love and enjoy our families and friends. We have shut God out of our lives. We just do not have time for Him or for the activities that He has designed for our Spiritual advancement. When considered in contrast to our fast-moving, high-powered lives, His requirements seem inconvenient and time-consuming.

Sometimes we are just too busy. Even though we recognize our lives are not as rewarding as we would like, we continue at the same dizzying pace.

Even the disciples of Jesus could become caught up in the same kind of hurry, hurry, do, do kind of life. Jesus' Apostles were busy men. He sent them to preach and to do good for the people of the land. When they returned they had much to tell. They were thrilled by the service that they rendered for their Master.

In the midst of their doing, they had become Spiritually fatigued. When they returned and told all that they had been involved with, Jesus told them to come apart and rest. They needed to get away

THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

from the press of the daily grind so they could get a more balanced view of life. They had become so entangled with their daily activities that they had lost touch with the more important things.

The experience of the disciples is parallel to our own experience. We find ourselves so wrapped up in the daily affairs of our lives that we lose sight of the more important issues of life. We need to come apart and rest. God understands this need far better than we do. He wants us to pay attention to these more important issues in life, therefore He sometimes has to stop us in the midst of our daily activities. Through disease, accident or sorrow, He brings us to a standstill. As we are brought low, we are more likely to turn our thoughts to those matters God wants us to consider.

For this time to be profitable, we must have the right attitude concerning God's means of getting our attention. If we only consider the physical circumstances, we may be angry or upset because this pause was brought into our lives. We may be upset because we were prevented from doing certain things that we had thought to be important in our lives. We may be concerned because we could not accomplish some dear goal because God had brought this serious situation upon us. If we receive God's strokes as He wishes, this time can be profitable for our physical and Spiritual lives. If the rest He brings to our lives can be used to reflect upon the more serious affairs of life, we can profit from this time. When we are lying in bed, unable to care for ourselves, we have time to think about what things are really important in our lives. We realize the value of life, when it becomes a matter of serious reflection. When we are facing a life and death situation, life becomes more valuable to us. When we are immobilized, we value the ability to move around freely. Most of all, when confined, we begin to value our relationship with God.

We value other relationships more as we are limited in our ability to move about and to be with others. We appreciate our families and their service to us, even though it may disrupt their lives. We value our friends and neighbors as they offer their help and encouragement. We value our fellow believers for their care, concern and prayers. The prayers offered in our behalf are more valuable than many gifts or greetings. They are the true strength of each Christian's life.

If your life has become too busy and cluttered with the activity of this world, stop, come apart and rest a little. You can be refreshed and restored for the journey of life. If you do not come apart on your own, there may come a time when God will intervene in your life and call you apart for a season of rest. He wants you to appreciate the many blessings that He grants you. A rest may be the only way that

He can get your attention and appreciation.

Do you need a wake-up call from God to get your Spiritual rest? Will He need to bring you aside and force you to rest?

M.C.Cook

OUR ASCENDED ADVOCATE

Ephesians 4:8-10, "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)"

I John 2:1, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"

Of all of the Scriptural truths concerning our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ perhaps the one least emphasized, preached on and studied is the ascension. There are many precious truths related to the ascension. We would like to center our thoughts on one in particular, that the ascended Christ is our advocate with the Father.

The word translated, "advocate" is the Greek word, "paraklesis." It is found only once in Holy Scripture. Its meaning can be intercessor, consoler or comforter. The vast importance of the doctrine of Christ as our advocate brings into question the axiom that if something is found only once in Holy Scripture it is of little importance. Of course, the truth of Christ as our advocate is described in other terms at various places within the Bible.

The first word to come to mind related to Christ as our advocate is the word, "Grace." While the term "Free grace" has been mis-used and mis-applied by certain groups and individuals, we can join in with great joy and appreciation when the last verse of number 315 in our Brethren Hymnal is sung.

"Of grace, free grace, alone I boast,
And 'tis in grace alone I trust;
And when I rise to heav'n, my home,
I'll shout free grace, free grace alone."

We believe the reason Christ descended before He ascended was to proclaim to the redeemed Old Testament believers who had gone to Paradise or "Abraham's bosom," either adjacent to or a part of Sheol, that free grace was consummated in His act of dying on the cross of Calvary. We believe these souls were to be given access to the throne of God and joined by the Saints after Pentecost.

The second word to come to mind, which is found in our opening

verse, is the word "gifts." Some of these gifts pertain to leadership. We do not believe they are limited to those in leadership. We must remember that Jesus Christ gave the gifts of leadership to man but never relinquished His rule and authority over them. He did not give us gifts to promote a vain and arrogant disposition. He gave gifts for the perfecting of the Saints. That is so we may be led to the place where our desire is to sin not. He gave gifts for the work of the ministry. He desired that leaders would recognize the gifts of others and be willing to use them in conjunction with their own gifts. Last, He gave gifts for the edifying of the body of Christ. To "edify" is to instruct or improve morally or spiritually. It can also mean to build or establish. We sometimes speak of building up one another in the faith. According to Revelation 12:10-11, Satan is the accuser of the brethren before our God day and night. We overcome him by the blood of the lamb and by our word of testimony. At least part of this testimony is the using of the gifts given unto us. When we do this our advocate will silence the voice of our accuser.

A final word that comes to mind is the word "greatness." Our lesson states that Christ ascended to the Father "that he might fill all things." Adam Clarke's commentary suggests this meaning. "That he might be the Fountain whence all blessings might flow, dispensing all good things to all His creatures, according to their several capacities and necessities; and, particularly, fill both converted Jews and Gentiles with all the gifts and graces of His Holy Spirit." We like the idea of Christ being the Fountain. One of the meanings of fountain is the source or origin of anything. Our ascended advocate is also the source of all our blessings. As with our salvation, we are not blessed because we deserve to be blessed, but because of the loving nature of our Lord.

In closing, our advocate with the Father is Jesus Christ the righteous. Because of the mis-use by Calvinists, many Anabaptists refute the doctrine of imputed righteousness. The Bible makes it clear that willful disobedience will result in loss of salvation in God's own time. Yet, we realize that our righteousness alone will never allow us to enter the portals of Heaven.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

THE WORD "JUST"

"Just" is a word we often use. Many times we use it incorrectly. We frequently use the word "just" and the words following it are made

to seem insignificant. Listed below are some examples. Let's all try to be more careful and use the word "just" less often.

Just take Jesus as your Saviour.

Just turn it over to the Lord.

Just consider it seriously.

Just a "stay-at-home mom."

Just don't put it off.

Just living together.

Just love everybody.

Just lean on Jesus.

Just a housewife.

Just don't do it.

Just get married.

Just my husband.

Just be patient.

Just persevere.

Just my child.

Just love her.

Just preaches.

Just get even.

Just be good.

Just friends.

Just my wife.

Just forgive.

Just forget.

Just serve.

Just do it.

Just pray.

Just quit.

Just try.

Just you.

Just me.

Sister Mildred Skiles

NEW VERSION THEOLOGY

Continued from March 15, 1997 Issue

Missing Theology

Just a few verses which have no corresponding verse in the NIV. There are many more which are not listed.

KJV: Acts 8:37, "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Is belief in Christ not important? To me it

is an important criterion of Salvation.

KJV: Luke 17:36, "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left." If there is no description of end times, how then do we recognize the end times?

KJV: Mark 9:44 and 46, "Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Is a description of Eternal damnation not important?

KJV: Matt. 18:11, "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." What then is the purpose of Christ? (Both KJV and NIV list this in Luke 19:10.)

KJV: Mark 15:28, "And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors." The fact that he took our sin is missing. (Both versions list it in Isa. 53:12 and Luke 22:37. Why not be consistent?)

KJV: Mark 11:26, (As Jesus was speaking on prayer, and our need to forgive) "But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." I understand the Scripture teaching that our need to forgive is extremely important for our salvation!

In Luke 11, in the Lord's prayer...the words in brackets are missing (Our) Father, (which art in Heaven) hallowed be...kingdom come (Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.)...lead us not into temptation; (but deliver us from evil). I personally feel all the missing words add important meaning to the Lord's prayer. (Again most of this is only missing in Luke.)

KJV: Matt. 23:14, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation." Apparently living in hypocrisy and pretense is not important.

Theology of the Birth of Christ

KJV: John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." NIV: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." We have seen the glory of the One and Only..What or Who? Secondly, there is no distinction if this is the first or fifteenth Son or Daughter (One is sexless) of God?

KJV: Luke 2:33, "And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him." NIV: "The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him." I thought Christ was fathered by the Holy Spirit. KJV does not say Joseph was his father. Many who promote liberal theology would have us believe this Joseph was his father, as implied by the NIV.

KJV: Matt. 1:25, "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS." NIV: "But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus." How many children did Mary have before Jesus? We are not clearly told in the NIV. This also clouds the fact of the virgin birth.

Other Theology Questions

Since when has Christ become God's servant? Christ Child replaced with Servant, Acts 4:27 and 30. Son of God replaced with Servant, Acts 3:13 and 26. In numerous passages of Scripture Christ has been demoted from Son of God to servant, from Lord Jesus Christ to Christ, from Christ to the obscure "the One", from "the" Son of God to "a" son of God. Likewise God has been demoted from the Almighty God to God or "a" God.

Eph. 3:9 states, "God created all things by Christ", which is confirmed in various scriptures, yet it is only created by God in the NIV.

Psa. 119:140 and Psa. 12:6 both speak of the Lord's words being Pure...in the NIV they are "flawless", or "thoroughly tested". Do these equate to purity?

Matt. 5:22 states whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause...NIV deletes "without a cause". Does this mean to be angry with a cause puts us in danger of the judgment too?

Eph. 3:14 states we bow before the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the NIV, only the Father is stated. There is no identification as to who, other than its implied understanding for us. It becomes material for the cults.

II Pet. 3:10 states that the earth shall be burned up, elsewhere we are told there will be a new heaven and earth...in NIV it is laid bare by fire. Which is correct?

Rev. 5:4 speaks of God's judgments, yet NIV calls it "God's righteous acts". God acts in righteousness, but are acts of righteousness necessarily identical or limited to God's judgments?

Rev. 6:7 speaks of God's great day of judgment (wrath), speaking of it as the great day of HIS wrath. NIV puts it "their wrath." Who is "their"? I know who "His" is, but "their" is plural?

I Pet. 1:5 states we are kept by the power of God. The NIV states that we are shielded by God's power. To me being kept is significantly different from being shielded.

In II Cor. 6:4, 12:12, Rom. 5:4, Heb. 10:10, "patience" is rendered either "persevere" or "endurance" I can persevere and endure, and still may not exercise patience.

Heb. 3:18, 4:11, Rom. 11:32 and other verses speak of unbelief, or believing not. Is this the equivalent of disobedience as rendered by the NIV? I feel I can believe and still be disobedient, much to my shame. Unbelief while often the cause of disobedience, still speaks of much more than disobedience to me.

Col. 3:16 speaks of the Word of Christ dwelling in us richly in all wisdom...NIV omits the wisdom here, but places it after admonishing others with wisdom. To me there is a fundamental difference. If wisdom dwells within, we automatically teach in wisdom, but if it does not, how do we teach in wisdom as we are instructed in the NIV?

To be continued,
Brother Rudy Shaffer

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #451

A CHARGE TO KEEP

A charge to keep I have

A God to glorify;

A never dying soul to save,

And fit it for the sky.

Arm me with jealous care,

As in thy sight to live;

And thy poor servant, Lord prepare

A strict account to give.

Many of our services at Brightbill's are begun with this hymn. These solemn words cause us to realize the purpose for our gathering together. They also help us to look back and determine whether we have truly been serving God during the past week.

We own nothing more valuable than our soul. Matthew 16:26 asks, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Ponder this thought for a few moments. Many are just too busy to do so, yet there is nothing more important. What will ye do with Jesus? We pay strict attention to earthly things at the expense of our souls.

Many of the old hymns of the church have not made the new editions. The new hymnals are full of the modern gospel: very little reflection upon the true needs of the soul. While I feel it is not wrong to learn new hymns, let us not neglect the old ones. Also, if we learn a new hymn, we should make sure it has a Biblical message.

I have a charge to keep: A God to glorify; A never-dying soul to save and fit it for the sky. Are we keeping this charge that has been given us? Let us ever behave as in God's sight to live.

Occupy till I come. Luke 19:13.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

The Lord sought him a man after his own heart after Saul, king of Israel, was disobedient. I Samuel 16:13. He chose David the youngest son of Jesse.

I Samuel 16:7. When choosing a man "...the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

What were the characteristics of David that made him highly favored of God? I Samuel 17:47. When he went out to fight Goliath, the Philistine giant, he had complete faith that the battle was the Lord's.

I Samuel 18:14. David behaved himself wisely in all his ways.

Even though Saul was David's enemy he had respect for Saul as God's anointed. I Samuel 24:5. David's heart smote him because he had cut off Saul's skirt. Apparently David had a tender conscience.

David committed some very serious sins during his lifetime but he was always ready to acknowledge his wrong and humble himself before the Lord.

Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

Brother Clifford St. John

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1937

THE REALITY OF CHRISTIANITY

D. W. Hostetler

In Acts 11:26 it is said that "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." The title, "Christian", applied to the disciples is a wonderful title. A greater title cannot be given to man. What does it mean to be a Christian? "A believer in Christ." It also embraces the idea of being a member of the church of Christ by obedience to His teaching. Christianity means "Christ-like" in life and character.

Now is the Christianity of Christ a reality in man's life? Or is it an imaginary something of the mind? "Reality" means "actually existing, a fact, truth or veracity." The writers of the New Testament stated

facts.

The reality of Christianity depends on there being a Christ and on the authenticity of the scriptures, and on whether inspiration stated facts. Peter one time said, "For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but holy men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Ghost." This teaches that God communicated His word by the Holy Spirit writing the word revealed. We believe that what we have in the Word concerning Christ are facts. Christ was real, and was what He was revealed to be, the Son of God, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the anointed Savior.

Christ was miraculously conceived by the Virgin. It was supernatural, contrary to the laws of nature. The angel said of Mary, "For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." It was not a human conception, but Infinite. And around that Infinite conception was built human flesh and blood. So this child that was born of the Virgin Mary was the Son of God.

Since Christ was real, the Christianity of the New Testament is real, and to be received and lived. This brings to the experience of man the real essence of Christianity.

Christ was both human and divine and was born to be the savior of mortals—to save them from sin. He was without sin. He lived a life of sinless perfection. (II Cor. 5) "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." He did not become contaminated with sin. He knew no sin, and when we accept Him as our Savior we become the righteousness of God in Him. (I Peter 2:22) Peter speaking of Christ says, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." (I John 3:5) "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin." Christ lived a life of sinless perfection that He might be our Savior. Had He sinned He could not be a Savior.

The Christianity of Jesus Christ is a real, living, indwelling and abiding Christianity. It enriches life and is the only thing that makes life worth while.

In (Matt. 24:24) Jesus said, "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets." Now if there is no true Christ, how can there be false Christs? If there are no true prophets, how can there be false prophets? There cannot be a counterfeit unless there is the genuine. So there is a genuine Christ and Son of God that came from heaven to save sinners.

Jesus one time said, "For many shall come in my name saying, 'I am Christ; and shall deceive many.'" If there is no true Christianity how can people be deceived in a thing that does not exist? These

false Christs are deceivers and the outgrowth is a false religion, a false Christianity, which is strong proof of the reality of true Christianity.

Now when we have Christ in the heart and life, then we have true Christianity. And Paul teaches us that, "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We in Him and He in us. That is why Paul said, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism." "Baptized into" means "to be inside of" as to come into a room or into a house, designating motion or direction, and also designating a change from one thing to another or one state to another. Baptizing into Christ is bringing out of a state of sin into Christ, a state of Christian living. For this reason it takes an immersion or planting. We have been translated from the power of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

In the fourth chapter of first Peter we are told that we should not suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. "Yet if any suffer as a christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf." To suffer as an evildoer would be suffering the penalty of a broken law and would be grievous. But to suffer as a Christian would be persecution for righteousness' sake, and this would be glorifying God. To suffer persecution for righteousness' sake proves the reality of Christianity. Paul said he "Took pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake." To suffer all these things for Christ's sake shows that the Christianity of Jesus is a real Christianity.

Peter speaks about the fiery trials which should try us, but says that we should rejoice in that we should be partakers of Christ's suffering. To sum it all up in a few words, to suffer as a Christian proves the Christianity of the Bible true.

If we accept Christ to be our Savior, and are in possession of Christianity, we become partakers of His suffering, we are children of God, and shall be heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. If so, let us suffer with Him. And Paul takes us a bit further here, for he says that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. We are made to realize that the suffering for Christ is not to be compared with the joint heirship with Christ in glory.

Christ's resurrection is the crowning proof of the reality of Christianity. For Paul says in (I Cor. 15) that if Christ is not risen our preaching is in vain, that he was a false witness, that our faith was vain, that we are in our sins, and all those who died in Christ are

perished.

So we are happy in the reality of the Christianity of our Lord. And it is our privilege to accept it and live it to the enriching of life beyond human conception.

OBITUARIES

LEVI B. GIBBEL

Bro. Levi Gibbel was born March 25, 1909, at Ephrata, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and departed this life February 3, 1997.

He was the son of the late Clayton and Lizzie (Becker) Gibbel. He was 87 years old. His wife Emma preceded him in death in 1989.

He had several hospitalizations in the past year prior to being a guest at the Mount Hope Dunkard Brethren Home, Manheim, Pennsylvania since July.

He was a member of the Conservative Baptist Brethren Church in the Frystown Congregation. He served as deacon and Sunday School teacher for most of his married life.

He is survived by three daughters: Mary Kathryn, wife of Clair Graver, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, Ada Ruth, wife of Paul Leininger, Denver, Pennsylvania and Nancy Anne, wife of Kenneth Rogers, Bethel, Pennsylvania, thirteen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren and a sister, Kathryn Gibbel, Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were conducted in the Heidelberg Church of the Brethren on Friday, February 7, with Bro. Kenneth Leininger (a grandson), Elder George Longenecker and Elder Paul Hartz sharing in the services. Interment was in the Heidelberg Cemetery.

Grandsons, David and Jonathan Rogers, Craig and Tim Graver, Victor Leininger and William Borkowski, grandson-in-law served as pall bearers.

We wish to express appreciation to the staff at Mount Hope Home for the good care they gave to Dad and for all acts of kindness and sympathy shown to us during his illness and passing.

The Family of Levi Gibbel

AMY M. KEGERREIS

Sister Amy Mildred (Gibbel) Kegerreis, born January 1, 1916, at Mt. Aetna, Pennsylvania departed from this life, February 17, 1997, at the age of 81 years, 1 month and 16 days. She is survived by her husband, Elder James M. Kegerreis, 220 Narrows Drive, Lebanon, Pennsylvania 17046; three sons, Harold H. husband of Fern (Bernheisel), Bethel, Pennsylvania, David H., husband of Rhoda

(Longnecker), Bethel, Pennsylvania and Marlin R. at home. Four daughters, Fern E., wife of Verling H. Wolfe, Bethel, Pennsylvania, Darlene M., wife of Marlin M. Marks, York, Pennsylvania, Jean F., wife of Lamar E. Keeney, Denver, Pennsylvania, and Maxine S., wife of Kenneth E. Wilkerson, Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, twenty grandchildren, thirty-four great-grandchildren. A brother Jacob Gibbel of Collins, Mississippi, and a sister, Mae Myers of York, Pennsylvania also survive.

The funeral service was held Friday, February 21, 1997, at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church. Burial was in the Frystown Cemetery, Frystown, Pennsylvania. Elder Paul Hartz, Elder Rudy Shaffer and ministers Jason Reed and David Aungst officiated at the services.

The family wishes to thank each of you who have remembered us in prayer, telephone calls of loving support, cards, visits, and flowers. May God bless each of you who has reached out to us in this time of sorrow.

Her Journey's Just Begun
Don't think of her as gone away-
her journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets-
this earth is only one.
Just think of her as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort
where there are no days and years.
Think how she must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.
And think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched...
for nothing loved is ever lost-
and she was loved so much.

-Ellen Brenneman
The Family

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The District Meeting of the Third District will be held in Quinter, Kansas on April 12 to 13. The business meeting will begin at 9:00 A.M., Saturday morning, April 12. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come worship with us. If you can not join us, please be with us in prayer.

Sister Beth Jamison, Cor.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Brethren and Sisters over the brotherhood for all the cards, letters, prayers, and telephone calls for our 60th wedding anniversary. May God richly bless you all for your kindness and love. Thank you.

Brother Levi and Sister Grace Miller

CARD OF THANKS

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

I wish to send my "Thanks" to each one who sent me birthday cards and gifts. It was quite a pleasure to receive so many and to read the many notes and letters contained therein. It brought tears of joy as I opened them. Wonderful! May the Lord richly bless each one who had a part.

In Christian love,
Sister Della Ebling

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent me cards, telephone calls, money and visits on my 80th birthday. It made us feel so good each day when the mail arrived and to sit down and open it. Again, we thank you and pray the Lord will bless each one.

Brother Virgil A. Leatherman

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Jacob C. Ness, Secretary
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Tom Jamison
R.2 Box 30
Hoxie, KS 67740
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marian Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

APRIL 15, 1997

NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JESUS, AND SHALL IT EVER BE

Jesus, and shall it ever be,
A mortal man ashamed of thee:
Ashamed of thee, whom angels praise,
Whose glory shines thro' endless days?

Ashamed of Jesus! sooner far
Let evening blush to own a star!
He sheds the beams of light divine
O'er this benighted soul of mine.

Ashamed of Jesus! just as soon
Let morning be ashamed of noon:
'Tis midnight with my soul, till he,
Bright Morning Star, bid darkness flee.

Ashamed of Jesus! that dear friend
On whom my hopes of heav'n depend!
No! when I blush, be this my shame,
That I no more revere his name.

-Joseph Grigg

SAMSON THE WEAK STRONG MAN

As we read in the Book of Judges concerning the mighty feats of strength performed by Samson, we marvel at his physical strength. He overcame great odds and delivered himself from many dangerous situations. Unfortunately, although Samson had this great physical strength, his spiritual strength did not equal it. Although he was brave and daring, he failed to use his strength as God had intended.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah and his wife to announce that though she had been barren, she would deliver a son. That son would be endowed with extraordinary strength, so he could rid the land of the Philistine's domination.

The people had repeatedly left the care and counsel of God. They had followed the various heathen, pagan gods, that the people around them worshipped. As they had drifted away from God, they eventually were overcome by their heathen neighbors. Other tribes had dominated them before, now it was the time of Philistine domination. As that domination worsened, the people began to cry unto God for deliverance. As their cries became more heartfelt, He determined to deliver them from their oppression. For this purpose he raised up Samson.

When his impending birth was announced to his parents, they were given a message concerning the specialness of this child. From his birth, he was to be a Nazarite. During her pregnancy, his mother was not to eat or drink any product of the grape vine. A part of the Nazarite vow was that he could not eat or drink any product of the grape vine. It was required that a razor could not be used throughout the time the vow was upon him. Samson's strength was

THE BIBLE MONITOR**APRIL 15, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

identified with his uncut hair. The strength was actually from God, but He gave the strength in honor of the Nazarite's vow. The third requirement was that he could not touch a dead body. During the time of the vow, the Nazarite was to be separated and holy unto God. His life was to reflect his devotion to God through the keeping of his vow.

Unlike most who were Nazarites, Samson had the vow upon him before his birth. It was to last his lifetime. Although his parents were concerned about raising him, we find that Samson, when he was grown, was not always as particular about his Nazarite vow as he should have been. Several times are recorded that show his disregard for the vow and his parent's teaching.

As we follow Samson, we notice that despite his parent's efforts to mold a godly man, he was rebellious. He did not seek godly activities. When he sought a wife, he did not look amongst his own people. He found a wife amongst his people's enemies, the Philistines. He was determined to have her against his parent's advice. The circumstances surrounding his wedding caused him to get the best of some of the Philistines. His rebelliousness and anger were not the mark of a man separated unto God. He did not display holiness.

He had fed his natural hunger with honey that had been formed inside the carcass of a lion, which he had killed with his bare hands some time before. His curiosity had led him to look for that lion's carcass. He had not only touched but had dug into the cavity of this dead animal to get the honey. Later he would win a great and celebrated battle by using the jawbone of an ass as a weapon. This was obviously handling a part of a dead animal.

While there is no account of him using fermented drinks, it would not have been impossible since he was often involved in parties. He had killed the lion in the grape vineyards of Timnath.

Eventually, Delilah was able to coax from him the source of his great strength. Although he deceived her several times before telling, each time he came closer to revealing the actual source of his strength. After his hair was cut, he became as weak as other men. When it had grown back in, he realized the futility of his life. He prayed one last time that God would give him enough strength to destroy the lords of the Philistines. In his death, he destroyed more Philistines than he had during his life.

Although God had empowered him several times during his life that he might have victories over the Philistines, Samson had lost any desire to control himself. Although taught by his parents, he had not been mindful of the holiness that his vow required of him. He had been a weak strong man.

Although you have not been given the physical strength that Samson was

given, you have made a vow of separation and holiness unto the Lord. Your promises to God and the Church are as serious as Samson's. Will you be faithful?

M.C.Cook

AND NOW ABIDETH FAITH

What is faith? How important is it? When I was a teenager, I was to give a talk on faith. I filled fifteen pages of tablet paper to use in my talk. The Bible definition is found in Heb. 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The opposite of faith is doubt and unbelief. The Apostle says this is sin. Rom. 14:23, "And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Jesus often chided the disciples because of their doubt and unbelief. Matt. 14:31, "And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" See Matt. 17:17, Mark 4:40, Luke 24:25.

One of the first things we want to notice is that we have faith in many things. We even have faith in some people. The most important thing, is that we have faith in God and in salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Heb. 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

The disciples prayed that their faith might be increased. We should too. Luke 17:5, "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith."

Isaiah 43:10-11, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was not God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

John 11:42, "And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."

John 14:29, "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass, ye might believe."

John 17:21, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

John 20:30-31, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

A true and abiding faith assures victory. I John 5:4-5, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Please read II Chron 20:1-30 noting that Jehosaphat had faith. Verse 20, "And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper." He also praised and worshipped God before the victory. Verse 18, "And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord."

Caleb said in Joshua 14:12, "Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said." In Numbers 14:8, Joshua and Caleb said, "If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey." Verse 24 says, "And my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, (a spirit of faith) and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it."

We are justified by faith. Gen. 15:6, "And he (Abraham) believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." See Rom. 4:3, Hab. 2:4, "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." Acts 13:39, "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Rom 3:24-25, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." Verse 28, "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Rom. 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Gal. 3:24-25, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster."

Rom. 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." So the Word must be preached and believed. We need to be reminded again and again, so that our faith fail not. We pray that our faith may be increased. Luke 22:31-32, "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for

thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." We need to pray for one another, that we may all stand by faith.

John 6:28-29, "Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

Heb. 11 tells us of many great men of faith. We are not taught any of them moved a mountain into the sea, but "Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, more over of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

So if we have the faith that Abraham had we may with him enter into that city. Heb. 11:10, "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Verse 16, "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city." And if we have the faith that Moses had we also can receive the recompense of the reward. Heb. 11:25-26, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward."

So all people of true faith shall be made perfect together. May we all be able to say as did the Apostle Paul in II Tim. 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

May God bless you all
Brother William Carpenter

A MISSION WE CAN TRUST

After boarding a plane for the flight to New Mexico to hold a revival meeting

at the Torreon Navajo Mission, I was seated next to a "grandmotherly-type" lady with a pleasant personality. She had stiff shoulders and fingers, so I was able to assist her with many things, like opening and closing her purse, bringing down her food tray, and tearing open the little packages containing food and tableware. I was also able to help with cutting up her food so she could eat it.

After all this, she became quite talkative. She said she had prayed that a nice person would sit beside her. She was so thankful that a nice person had sat beside her. (Thank you, Lord! All the praise and glory to Him, for it's only by His grace!)

The lady wondered where I was going. So I told her. After further questioning, she learned quite a bit about the Dunkard Brethren Mission among the Navajos at Torreon. She ended up giving me a donation to help with ministering to the Indian children.

She was particularly concerned about organizations and ministries which claim to help needy children, yet less than ten percent of the donations, actually, ever get to the children. (I have a concern about that, too!)

What a joy it was for me to be able to tell her of the Torreon Navajo Mission and School, where the donations are being used to help Navajo children and adults by a staff I could trust!

No doubt, there are as many ideas about how to use the available funds as there are readers of this publication. The staff at the Torreon Navajo Mission have a strong sense that every dollar that is sent is God's money. They pray for His wisdom and guidance in making wise use of the available funds.

I am thankful that if I would again be asked about a place that ministers to Indian Children, I could refer the inquirer to the Torreon Navajo Mission, whose staff I can trust.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Bob Lehigh

SEVEN DAY CHRISTIAN

Have we by habit become "Sunday Christians?" I challenge each one of us to really think about it and ask ourselves, "Am I a true full time seven day a week Christian or am I just a 'Sunday Christian'?" Do we dress up in our finest apparel, with Bible in hand, arrive early at the church service every Sunday morning, greeting one another with the Holy Kiss? Does our language consist of "Praise the Lord," "God Bless" and so forth?

Then when the worship service has ended, home we go to a change of clothes, hanging our fine suits and dresses in the closet, along with our Christianity. We will not wear any of them again until next worship service?

Brethren and Sisters, does this sound familiar?

Do we keep our Lord and Savior in our hearts the other six days of the week? Do we shine to the world: our neighbors, co-workers and class mates?

I once knew a man who would be considered plain or conservative. In one breath he could act like the Lord's most wonderful and faithful follower, yet in the next breath he had the coldness of evil on his heart to put down a fellow co-worker because of a harmless characteristic the co-worker possessed. How many of us may be as guilty as this man?

I once had the same difficulty in my life. In the setting I was once in, this was normal. "Look good for our peers," was all the Sunday worship service meant. I later began asking myself this question, "How would I act if Jesus Christ, Himself, was my partner all day at work or school?" I believe many of us would act very differently! Guess what? HE IS ALWAYS WITH US! It does not matter where we go, if anyone is watching, or if we are in a church service or not! He sees all our actions, hears everything we say and even knows our very thoughts!

Scary, isn't it? Not really! Having the Lord with us can also be reassuring. Just the simple thought of knowing there is Someone always on our side to aid us in defending us against Satan's evil tactics to trip us in our daily walk with God. He is there to catch us if we might be tripped.

So please, dear Christians, do not leave the Lord in the closet from Sunday to Sunday. Take Him with you wherever you may venture throughout the week. Let the world know you have Christ in your heart.

Brother Steven R. Kline
Lititz Congregation

NEW VERSION THEOLOGY

Continued from April 1, 1997 issue

Other Theology Questions

II Tim. 2:15, we are instructed to study to shew ourselves approved unto God, but in the NIV we are to "present ourselves to God as one approved." Is study worthless in preparing our lives for service that we might be approved? I can present myself "as approved," yet because of my laziness not be approved of God. Further in I Tim. 4:15 we are instructed to meditate. NIV, "be diligent". To meditate is to open one's life to the instructions of God's word. To be diligent implies my action. I can be diligent in ministerial work as implied in the NIV and still forget the Word of God.

Luke 4:4 states that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. NIV deletes the "but by every word of God". So if man does not live by

bread alone, what else is he to live by?

Acts 3:19 teaches us to repent and be converted. NIV just to repent. Is conversion not important? Am I still saved if I repent but am not converted, continuing to live in Sin. Are my sins still blotted out?

Mark 10:24 speaks of those who trust in riches. It is hard for them to come to kingdom of God. NIV deletes riches. So, then, it is just plain hard for anyone to enter into the Kingdom of God.

KJV: Matt. 18:7, "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" NIV: "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!" One who offends, sins, but I thought Christ was talking of the one who caused offences, hard feelings and so forth not just some sin or shortcoming which no one knew about.

Heb. 9:7 speaks of the yearly great sacrifice of atonement being offered for the errors of the people. NIV states it was for sins committed in IGNORANCE. I thought it was for more than sins which were ignorantly committed. If it is not, then there is no hope for Israel.

Matt. 21:31 speaks of the people reverencing Christ. NIV puts it respect. To me reverence is a greater respect than just respect. It is regarding him as Holy and Sacred.

Gen. 4:1 Eve stated, "I have gotten a man from the Lord." NIV: "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Are children a creation of God, or has God become the midwife, so to speak, but not the creator of every human being?

I Cor. 16:2 they were instructed to lay aside as God had prospered them. In NIV, they were to set aside according to their income. Has God no influence on our financial affairs?

Matt. 15:19 speaks of the evils of the heart. The NIV equates slander to the KJV blasphemy. I may slander an individual, but I can slander or blaspheme God. Blasphemy is a much greater sin. Similarly, Col. 2:9 NIV translates "blasphemy" as "anger". To me blasphemy is a much more significant sin than anger. Mark 7:2 "blasphemy" is translated as "slander".

Rev. 2:9 the message is to the Church at Smyrna. "I know thy works and tribulation and poverty." NIV ignores their works, stressing their afflictions and poverty. Does this mean if I am afflicted and in poverty (but perhaps an evil blasphemer) I am still rich in God?

Gal. 6:1 we are instructed to restore a fallen brother with meekness remembering that we too can be tempted and fall. NIV we are to restore him

"gently". I can restore gently, but still feel proud and superior, failing to have the meekness instructed in the KJV.

Matt. 5:44. We are to pray for our enemies, love them, do good for them, and bless them, but the NIV lacks the instruction of our doing good to them. Now it is much easier to comply!

Col. 4:12 Epaphras was praying that the Colosse church would stand perfect in the will of God. "Perfect" is translated "firm". I see quite a difference between perfection and firmness. In Heb. 9:9 it is discussed how sacrifices could not make one's service perfect, it is translated so as to clear the conscience of the worshiper. Atonement and God's forgiveness are different from relieving man's conscience. Further, in II Tim. 3:7 "That the man of God may be perfect..." No reference is made at all to this attribute in the NIV. In Eph. 4:13, and Phil. 3:15 "perfect" is changed to "mature" (in age, ripeness or what?). Perfection in Christ is important to all the saints and their faith. Other references (II Tim. 3:7, Eph. 4:12, and so forth) change the meaning to "equip" or "prepare" and other terms. All of these terms lose some of the richness of the meaning of perfection.

In Matt. 5:32, 19:9, Christ is speaking about who may put away his wife. He lists premarital fornication as the only reason. In NIV it is rendered as marital unfaithfulness. That is quite a difference in marital status. It broadens the justification for divorce. Further I understand the KJV to imply divorce is really a breaking of the engagement, not divorce as we understand it today. However the NIV would allow it for marital infidelity after one is married.

The conclusion

Brother Rudy Shaffer

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

Marital Incompatibility

There is no question that the American home is in trouble. The divorce rate speaks for itself. More significantly, divorce proceedings are never filed but what a meaningful marriage has long since died. The joy, sacredness and adventure as well as the unanimity are no longer there. Once radiant with the glow of love and trust, now two people glare at each other across the table that has widened over the years. Silence is broken only by a quarrel. The home, with its tenderness and sacred affection, has become shambles.

Court dockets are glutted with divorces. Marriage counselors are besieged with people looking to marital incompatibility solutions.

If you have observed one of these homes at close range, you realize why Jesus declared that marriage is a solemn bond and the rules that govern it are

strictly dictated by heaven.

The media today makes stormy marriage the brunt of jokes but an unhappy marriage is far from funny. You have no doubt heard the axiom, "Marry in haste; repent at leisure." Remember this. A hasty marriage can hurt many people. Children are many times involved and they cannot escape the traumatic effects of constant quarreling and possible, eventual divorce. The delinquency problem in our nation stems primarily from the "lack of love" homes and a lack of love and supervision during the formative years.

Hollywood has shaped the American concept of marriage and morals. This is tragic. How fully unqualified this source is. The actors and playwrights involved are frequently reliving the values that reflect their own lives. There is so much more to love and marriage than what we can see on television or hear in the lyrics of popular music.

Many marriages are launched with one member of the team being grossly selfish. It is less possible to love a person and be heedless of his feelings and needs than to jump into a lake and not get wet. Love that does not share is not love. Love that allows for betrayal of one of its partners ends up in tragedy.

One of the common complaints in marriage is that the husband and wife no longer enjoy each other's company. This can be due to a variety of reasons but frequently it is because of schedules that are just too busy today. We can be too busy with many things. In fact, I know some families that have been destroyed as a result of being too busy with their church work. Isn't it amazing that Satan can use this means to destroy God's institution? He will use any means he can to strain or destroy what should be beautiful and filled with harmony.

Another term that is becoming obsolete is "homemaker." Many women have opted for careers away from the family and home. It is very difficult to make a home when she is seldom there.

So, what is the solution? Simply stated, we need to get "back to the Bible." It is there that we find solutions to problems in the home. We need to become a little "old fashioned." It may seem "corny" to enjoy each other's company, to sing, to play games, just to be happy together. But, it used to work. It will work today. Activities need to revolve around the home and the family. Even education that involves the family unit helps to hold the home together. Certainly all of these things are worth a try if your home is in trouble.

Pray. Pray that God will build your home on the solid foundation of compatibility, caring and gentleness.

Brother Len Wertz

LITTLE SAID — MUCH LEARNED

Part One

We know very little about Epaphras. Oh! Let us rephrase that. Little is said about Epaphras. That's better, because from that little, we know a lot about him.

Epaphras is mentioned only three times. In Philemon 23, Paul asks that he be saluted. In Colossians 1:7, he is called a "dear fellow servant" and a "faithful minister." In Colossians 4:12, thirty-two words tell us the story of this great man.

First, he is one of you. This portrays him as one of the group to whom Paul is writing. This establishes comradeship. He is a part of the fellowship. We tend to pay more attention to someone who is part of us over someone foreign. The next phrase is the highest compliment that can be said of anyone, "a servant of Christ!" After we see his greeting, "saluteth you", we are shown the proof that he indeed was a servant of Christ. Here is a man who is laboring fervently in prayer for others, that they might stand perfect and complete before God.

How often do we labor fervently for ourselves and forget others? Do we sometimes not only forget to pray for others but rather degrade, slander, and ridicule them. We have an example in Epaphras that is not easy to follow, nor does it always seem popular. This man had a burning desire to help and to lift up his Brethren as they were faced with trials and temptations.

So often when we see others fall short, we smirk and snicker. Apparently, we think that we are lifted a little higher when we see someone else put down. In reality this is not true. If we glory in seeing others fail and fall short, then we are the one losing favor in God's eyes. It is time for some self examination.

The true follower of Christ will "rejoice with them that rejoice" and "weep with them that weep" and will mourn with them, or for them as need be. If they see a brother or sister sinking into sin they will fall on their face before God and beg for mercy for that person and petition God to call them back.

If only we could pattern our lives after Epaphras. Be one of the group, serve Christ, labor fervently for others with a true concern, then you, too, might be close to that description of highest compliment, "servant of Christ."

Brother Roger Swihart
Quinter, KS 67752

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1937

CAIN AND ABEL OFFERING

John Sleppy

There were two sons born to Adam and Eve. Cain was a tiller of the ground but his brother a keeper of sheep and in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord, and Abel also brought the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. (Gen. 4:3-4). I judge from the above that Cain and Abel offered to the Lord a free will offering in respect to the Lord or as a token of love. Each son of Adam offered just what belonged to each one and what else could they do? (Vs. 4) And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering, (Vs. 5) But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect and Cain was very wroth (mad) (Vs. 6). The Lord said unto Cain (in short, what are you mad about?) That pleased Satan that Cain was mad. (Vs. 7). If thou doest not well sin lieth at the door. Did Cain sin by offering to the Lord the fruit of the ground? The above is proof that he did sin. Do you think Cain had no faith with his offering? I think he had faith but not according to knowledge. He tilled the ground according to his knowledge.

Now let us take the word of God to decide this great question. Turn to (Gen. 3:17). Cursed is the ground for thy sake. If God would have had respect to Cain's offering, the Lord would have been Satan's victim because he had respect to that which grew out of the cursed ground. This curse remained on the ground until it was cleansed by water in the deluge in the days of Noah. The cursed period of the ground seems to be close to two-thousand, five-hundred years. (Gen. 5:28-29). And Lamach begat a son and he called his name Noah saying this same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands. Take notice, because the ground the Lord hath cursed. No wonder the Lord had no respect for Cain's offering. It seems that Satan swayed the scepter before the deluge just as he is doing in this day and age of the world. (Gen. 6:5-12). And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. The same is true today. And God looked upon the earth and behold it was corrupt for all flesh had corrupted his ways upon the earth. Jesus said to His disciples, but as the days of No'e (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the son of man be for as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, so shall also the coming of the son of man be. (Matt. 24:37). (Gen. 6:8). But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and Noah did according unto all that the Lord commanded him.

The earth had been cleansed. This brings us to the second dispensation. (Ex. 22:29.) Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits. The first of the first fruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the Lord thy God.

Now the Lord had respect for the fruit offering of Jews because he ordered it. If the Jews neglected to offer the fruit of the land they sinned. Now under the third and last dispensation God requires a living offering. (Rom. 12:1) I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice or offering wholly acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. The first man Adam is of the earth. We are all of Adam's race and need cleansing. Before the sacrifice let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Heb. 10:22). But ye are washed but ye are sanctified (set apart, separated from the world), but according to His mercy God saved us by the washing of regeneration (born again). See (Eph. 5:26). That he might sanctify (free from sin, purified and set apart to holy use) and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that he might present it to himself a glorious church. Pure religion and undefiled before God is this, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. Members of a church of the past and of the present that have been baptized for the remission of sins and full of spots and wrinkles of the world when they present their bodies as a living sacrifice to God in the sanctity of the altar of prayer full of spots and wrinkles of the world, that kind of offering is like Cain's offering. Dear brethren and sisters, I pray God that we keep ourselves from the wrinkles and ruts and styles of the world.

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #602

SOME SWEET DAY

Some sweet day when life is o'er,
We shall meet above;
We shall greet those gone before,
In that home above.

In Isaiah 51:11 it says, "Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away." What a wonderful time, when we get there! Many times in hospital work we have seen those anxious for Heaven. Once, a dear old lady, near her time, was saying, "I want to go home." When asked what home she meant, she said, "My Heavenly Home!"

Do we look forward to going to be with the Lord? No one wants to die, this is

true, but no one in all honesty wants to go to Hell, either. We do not hear too many saying they look forward to dying and going to Heaven, yet Christ died that we would go there. Praise the Lord for this wonderful gift!

Trials here below we meet,
Sorrow, pain, and care;
In that happy home so sweet,
Joy and peace we'll share.

What a difference! Behold, all things become new! That which pained us all our lives will be done away, no more suffering, no more care. Nothing but joy and peace will be ours at the feet of our dear Savior! No more persecution. No more death. We will live with Him forever!

Are you ready to meet Jesus? Do you share that Blessed Hope of Eternal Salvation? I hope to see you someday in that home above.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Angels are rejoicing and so are we at the Englewood Congregation for the precious souls that have decided to walk with us to the realms of Glory: Mindy, wife of Tim Kauffman by former baptism and Ken and Teresa Brown by baptism. Please pray that our Sovereign God will give each of us wisdom and spiritual growth.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

THANK YOU

The kind expressions for Wesley's 80th Birthday were greatly appreciated. May the Lord richly reward.

Wesley and Ruth Speicher

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

The area code for Sis. Della Ebling of the Bethel Congregation is now 610.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast on April 26 and 27. Services will start at 11:00 on Saturday. Remember these services in your prayers. All are welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 1997

May 4 - Faithfulness And Purity - Titus 1:1-16.

1. For what cause did Paul leave Titus in Crete?
2. How can we profess to know God but in works deny Him?

May 11 - MOTHER'S DAY - Luke 1:26-60.

1. Why did God choose Mary as the mother of His Son?
2. How did Elizabeth know Mary was going to be the mother of Jesus?

May 18 - The Significance of Sound Doctrine - Titus 2:1-15.

1. What are "the things which become sound doctrine"?
2. What is "the grace of God that bringeth salvation" which has "appeared to all men"?

May 25 - Saved By Grace - Titus 3:1-15.

1. How can we "be ready to every good work"?
2. How are we "justified by His (God's) grace"?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR
MAY 1997**

May 4 - The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32.

1. Why did the father restore the prodigal to sonship immediately upon his return?
2. Was the older son justified in being angry? Explain.

May 11 - MOTHERS - I Sam. 1:23, Luke 1:41-46, II Tim. 1:5.

1. What did Mary mean, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"?
2. How much faith was necessary for Mary to believe that the things "told her from the Lord" would be performed?

May 18 - The Unjust Steward - Luke 16:1-13.

1. Was the steward doing the right thing when he reduced the amounts owed to his master?
2. What is "the unrighteous mammon"?

May 25 - The Sheep - Matt. 18:12-13, Matt. 25:31-46, Luke 15:1-7.

1. Explain the symbolism Jesus used in calling the righteous, sheep and the unrighteous, goats?
2. Who are the "ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance"?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

MAY 1, 1997

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SUN OF MY SOUL

Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear,
It is not night if Thou be near;
O may no earthborn cloud arise
To draw Thee from Thy servant's eye.

When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My wearied eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
Forever on my Savior's breast.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

Be near to bless me when I wake,
Ere thro' the world my way I take,
Abide with me till in Thy love
I lose myself in heaven above.

-John Kepler

SPECIFIC PRAYER

Public prayers include many general requests covering a broad range of topics and events. Not all subjects are fit for public disclosure through prayer. Public prayer is a part of our worship and witness.

Private prayer is an experience between the one praying and God. Private prayer is closet prayer, where the world is shut out. Not only should the one praying be concentrating upon his relationship with God as expressed through the words and thoughts of his prayer, but he should shut out the cares and interests of his surrounding world. Others may not see him in his real or imaginary closet, but they may intrude upon his thoughts.

Any concern may be a proper subject for private prayer. The more personal the subject the more needful to have private prayer concerning it. Anything that bothers a Christian should be a subject of prayer. Many of these concerns might be very embarrassing if uttered in public. We do not like to reveal our weaknesses nor our failures even to those closest to us. We need to be sharing our deepest concerns with God. Even when sharing with others, we need to take the problem to God, for other humans may not know the correct answer to our problem. Just as we desire expert advice in our temporal affairs, we should seek the expert input of God in the littlest and the biggest affairs of our lives.

When we are solving any problem we must approach the problem through its various parts. Most problems are too complicated to solve in one operation. Problems in life usually can not be solved like

THE BIBLE MONITOR

MAY 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

mathematic problems in a textbook. Sometimes we are not even sure of what equations to use. So we must take the problem apart and solve each individual part of it. As each part is solved, we can move on to the next part. Eventually if we use the right procedures and have enough persistence we can solve the problem. The problems we face in life can not always be broken down so cleverly as a problem of arithmetic. Still, there are specific parts to our problems. We need to make these specific parts a matter of specific prayer.

To attack a problem by an unorganized assault upon it will yield mostly confusion and noise. It is like an army engaged in a battle without a properly organized and disciplined group of soldiers. If each soldier operates according to his own plan and cooperates with no one else, the battle is lost. Each part of that army must concentrate upon its assigned objective. Some objectives are larger than others, but all have a part in the success or failure of the army in battle.

The problems of life demand organization and discipline. God has not left His people without some instruction and organization to help them accomplish what He desires to have done in that life. When there are problems He is nearby to offer aid. He wants to be approached with the specific problem that keeps one of His children from being successful in the battles of life.

Whether an official or a laymember, each member has problems that face him. It may be a decision concerning attending a certain event in the community. There may be a question within the Christian's mind whether it is appropriate to attend or not. If he does not find a definite scriptural endorsement or denial of the proposed activity, he needs to seek God's advice. God's answer may come in various ways. Events may transpire to make it possible or impossible to attend the event in question. He may be directed to scripture that he had overlooked. He may have brought to mind various reasons that would affect his participation. Even though the event may not be evil within itself, the influence of the Christian may be lessened by his involvement. His witness may be weakened before weak members or non-members who are watching him as an example of righteous living. Officials face problems within their congregations and in their Church board work that call for going to their knees to seek the Lord's direction. They can best get answers by breaking their problem down into specific parts. They can better deal with these specifics than with the whole range of problems before them.

Whoever we are, whatever our problems and needs, we need to divide them into specific segments that are easier to deal with, as we carry them to our prayer closet. Many times just the exercise of

defining the problem will help to open the mind to the solution of the problem. Getting specific as we approach God with our problem will help us solve the problem as He responds to our call for help.

Whether you pray in generalities or in specifics, continue to pray. Pray often. Pray now.

M.C.Cook

HELP! I NEED A PLUMBER, MY SPIRITUAL LIFE IS LEAKING

Mr. Homeowner calls Mr. Plumber Fit-it-Quik with the following request, "I have no water for my family. I need your help, as soon as possible. Can you help?"

The plumber answers that he can help. Mr. Plumber Fix-it-Quik arrives, looks over the situation and tells the homeowner, "I can not fix it quick. You will need to find another plumber." So he goes on to another job that he can fix quickly. He fattens his bank account, while Mr. Homeowner is left with no solution to his problem.

Mr. Homeowner returns to the telephone book and calls Mr. Plumber-I-Care.

Mr. Plumber-I-Care arrives, looks at the problem, shakes his head and tells Mr. Homeowner, "This problem is far too much for me today, however, I know a Master Plumber who will be able to help find a solution."

The Master Plumber along with Mr. Plumber-I-Care started the repair job by first of all fixing the water pump and finished the job by repairing the leaks in the pipes. Mr. Homeowner and his family were grateful for the work performed by both the Master Plumber and Mr. Plumber-I-Care. Because both plumbers worked together, the family was able to enjoy a home, where the water was flowing and hot. They also knew if a problem were to arise again, there was a place to go.

Today many people are in desperate need for spiritual help much like Mr. Homeowner was in trouble. We find these people turning to the churches around them, which could include your church. If they come to your door, are you going to be giving them a quick fix or are they going to be introduced to the Master? There never was a problem too large for Jesus. If we, as a church, are willing to point those in need to the Master, they will find help that will be a life changing experience. Let all of us be a Mr. Christian-I-Care.

Brother Jim Eberly
Terre Hill, PA.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

What does God look like?

Have you ever wondered what God looks like? I would imagine that most of us have a mental image of Him. Some see Him as a benign old man with a flowing beard and long robe...others see Him as a terrifying Superman with bulging muscles. Others see Him as He is painted on the Sistine Chapel ceiling by Michelangelo.

Is it really important that we know what God looks like? Isn't a presence more important than a form? Much of the time the thing we really love in a person is who they are and not what they look like.

Do you even think of a face when you think of God? We know He has a face because the Word often speaks of the face of God. Many men heard His voice. Adam and Eve even heard Him walking in the garden. **GOD IS REAL.**

Although the Bible says God made man in His own image, we do not often think of Him looking like us so much as we think of Who and What He is. Our minds have difficulty in reducing Him to human specifications.

God took the form of a man when He came in the person of Jesus Christ. He was then a "visible" man.

We can look into the mind of God through the creation. In all of His creation we see Him. We learn that God thinks, plans and reasons much as we do, only with infallibility.

Even though we cannot visualize God in physical terms, we do know He is a Personality. He speaks and is understood by man. He answers prayers. He performs miracles in response to prayer. God does things when we pray and ask that He would not otherwise do.

Similarly, we do things for our children that we would not do if we were not asked. It is rather absurd to think of life as all "preset" with no change of course. If my son asked for a bicycle I did not give him a wagon. So it is with God. Our lives move as He gives, as He blesses, and as He moves within us.

The Bible communicates the important fact that God loves. The Almighty God has this awesome characteristic. He is a lover of man. He desires that we love Him back and that we choose the right paths in life. His love does allow for choices.

God did not create us to be in the situation we are in today. He did not want us to steal and cheat and fight. His desire was not that we would blaspheme and become morally decadent. He did not put us on earth to corrupt and pollute it. These are all perversions of His loving and perfect plan.

A God who loves wants to be loved in return. This is another

aspect of His nature which we learn from the Bible. All God asks of us, His highest creation, is to love in response. He desires that we love Him because of His love nature and His justice.

It is illogical to think a Holy God could allow anyone to share Heaven with Him if he hated Him. If everyone were destined to go to Heaven, it just would be another earth, full of right and wrong, love and hate, and good and bad.

God actually pleads for our love. He gives us incentives when we love Him and are obedient. "God so loved the world..." Because He loved the world, He has the right to expect us to respond to His love with love. That is all He asks.

He has done everything for us that a good Father would do for his family. He has given us the gift of life. He has provided us with all of the necessities of life. He has given us many special bonuses. All he asks in return is for a heartfelt love that leads to obedience. Is that asking too much of us? It is a small price to pay for the love of God.

Yes, we can know what God looks like from His Word. Best of all, we can KNOW HIM. By looking at Jesus and by trusting Him as our Savior, we see God. GOD LOOKS LIKE JESUS. It is a simple answer to a profound question.

Brother Len Wertz

SPIRITUAL CLONING

II Timothy 3:5, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

II Corinthians 10:12, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

The subject of evolution is becoming a regular feature in the newspapers over the country. The announcement of the cloning of sheep and then monkeys has caused quite a stir. Some newspapers have boldly announced that Science has created life.

In the first place we have no way of knowing if cloning actually took place. We are fully convinced that the vast majority of evolutionary claims are highly embellished. If the cloning of animals has taken place, science has still not created life. They have merely reproduced life. Science cannot even tell you what life is. They can talk about amino acids, cells and other bodily physiology, but they are just as much in the dark as anyone else as to what takes place when a living body becomes a dead corpse.

The work of cloning started out in the plant world. It has produced

the hybrid seed which is a hardier product but cannot be used for re-planting after growing to maturity. The first venture into the animal world was not actual cloning but taking two different species, such as a horse and a donkey, producing an offspring. This also resulted in animals that can not re-produce. Cloning claims to bypass the natural reproduction process. We seriously doubt that God will allow the cloning of humans. If this would be accomplished, it would be because God has permitted it to happen.

We are persuaded that scientific cloning need not cause us to be overly concerned. However we see a portion of church life that we have named Spiritual cloning which does cause us concern. As we stated, scientific cloning claims to bypass the natural reproduction process. There is a supernatural process by which humankind is born into the kingdom of God. Spiritual cloning seeks to bypass this supernatural process.

The process starts out by the Holy Spirit bringing conviction to an individual's heart. We can understand this to be our spiritual conception. Spiritual cloning seeks to bypass this supernatural action by implementing various entertainments and other manmade innovations. The earthly church has become a theater, a restaurant, and in some instances even a gambling house. Very little true Holy Spirit preaching and teaching is available.

We respect those who dress their children in plain garb because of personal conviction. We also see a danger in doing this. This can be another avenue to Spiritual cloning. Some are deluded into believing that plain dress is their salvation. They never come to the point of personal salvation. Closely related is raising our children in a Church atmosphere. We rejoice that many raise their children with the teaching of moral values. However we should never leave them under the impression that moral values are salvation. This can merely be another means of Spiritual cloning.

The Apostle Paul warns us that we can have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. We believe that God puts His blessing on church membership. We are convinced that a Christian should be a part of a body of believers, who uphold the Bible as the infallible Word of God. Where manmade wisdom replaces the power of the Word of God we have the result of spiritual cloning.

There are those who teach that baptism has nothing to do with our salvation. We are convinced that the Brethren teaching that baptism is the final act of salvation is scriptural. Baptism without true repentance and the work of the Holy Spirit in an individual's heart is merely Spiritual cloning.

Spiritual cloning usually results in comparing ourselves with some that commend themselves and comparing ourselves among ourselves. Many feel secure in the Lord while refusing to follow scriptural teachings because the majority of earthly Christianity ignores or even refutes them. On the other hand, many feel secure because they are merely following the commandments of man. Neither of these will suffice.

Let us desire to go beyond Spiritual cloning to a genuine born again experience and to follow the Word of God into all Truth.

Brother James M. Hite

816 E. Birch St.

Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

FROM THE BRETHREN HYMNAL

Hymn #568

THERE IS A HAPPY LAND

John 14:2, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

There is a happy land, Bright, bright as day;

There saints in glory stand, In glad array:

O, how they sweetly sing - worthy is the Saviour King!

Loud let His praises ring for evermore.

No person talks much about Heaven except the one who is anxious to go. If we are planning a trip to a far-away place, we have much to do to get ready. We need to make travel plans, get our shots and our passport and visas, and have our clothes and belongings ready. If we are visiting friends, we look forward to seeing them again. Our trip to Heaven will be a lot different from an earthly one. Once we become a child of God we begin to lay up treasure for that journey. The travel plans, and when we make the trip, are in the hands of God. We only need to ready our soul for that journey. We all have loved ones who have gone on ahead. We look forward to seeing them again. The closer we get to the realization of our journey, the more anxious we become.

Early in my Christian experience, God saw fit to put me in contact with many about to cross over. Though their bodies were dying, their faith was undying. They were not only looking forward to seeing Jesus and walking on the streets of Gold, but they wanted me to join them. One dear old sister spoke to me. I can still hear her say, "Oh, son, don't you want to go there?" Several times she spoke these words to me. The song says:

Come to this happy land, Come, come away:

Why will ye doubting stand? Why still delay?
O', we shall happy be! When from sin and sorrow free,
Lord we shall live with thee, Blest evermore.

Looking back we realize what we must do to attain this place. We must, forsaking everything else, embrace the Saviour and heed the Word of God, being obedient to the precepts taught therein. The Christian life is a walk of faith, for it is Christ alone that saves us. We have no power to save ourselves, so we must trust Him daily. We also know what the scriptures teach about Hell. We know that it is a place of eternal torment, a place of thick darkness, and the absence of God. To avoid this place we must trust in the Lord. Heaven is a far more beautiful place than we can ever imagine, because Jesus is there! What will it be like when we see Him? Are you willing to take this journey with me? Why still delay?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

CHURCH, WAKE UP!

The time is at hand, God's six day work week is almost at an end. When God created the earth, He worked six days. He made, blessed and sanctified the seventh day and set it aside for rest and worship. Gen. 2:1-3. A day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day in God's sight. II Peter 3:8. He gave this completed earth to turn, produce and furnish man a living for six thousand years. Read Psalms 115:16.

In all those years the earth has followed the course He set for it. The oceans and all waters, all vegetation, and so forth, as He made them have not violated His plan through day and night, rain and sunshine, winter and summer, cold and heat. Only man has violated His laws many times. He has been severely punished for doing so.

That six thousand year span has almost been fulfilled. Now man is again facing the wrath of both man and God. God will destroy this world of wickedness and usher in His (Christ's) one thousand year sabbatical rest period. He will reign with His Saints on earth, while Satan is chained in the bottomless pit where he cannot tempt and lead men astray anymore until Christ looses him one thousand years later. Rev. 20:1-3.

Can we imagine how wonderful it will be to live and reign with King Jesus for one thousand years? We cannot imagine the peace and beauty of such a life. God's Ten Commandments will be the law of all

the earth without wars. Even the wild animals will be so tame that they will not hurt a child. What great things we have to strive for.

People seem to think all the time that all is okay. They work, they play, they eat and satisfy the lusts of the eye, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life as though time will last forever, while they watch the television, VCR and enjoy other pleasures. I feel like a voice crying in the wilderness.

If you read the prophecies of the last days in the Bible with an open mind willing to learn, with a heart desiring to know the truth, with a willingness and desire to obey, God will reveal to you His truths. Read the daily news and ask yourself the question, "What is lacking to fulfill the prophecies but the wrath of man and God?"

We should search for the pearl of great price in God's Word daily. He will open the Scriptures, written thousands of years ago, for us today. Study the scriptures to discover God's will in your life. Be sure the devil has been shut out, because he is a great deceiver and can easily trip the student with his deceptions. Never let the devil deceive and tell you it is not necessary to do something, when God says that it is. Do not study to argue or promote a long taught misconception. Be sure to use a reliable version of the Bible. (Beware of recent versions. Use a version that is old and dependable.) Go for what the Bible says. There are churches and splinter groups of believers without number. All have varying beliefs, changed more or less, here and there, to suit each group. What will pass with God is the doing of His will and His will only.

Do not listen to people who say, "Christ did it all, we have nothing to do." Right, we are saved by faith, but our works with our faith seals us with Christ. James says in James 2:26, "Faith without works is dead." We are commanded to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. Christ said, "if ye love me you will keep my commandments". Please read John 14:15-21 and 15:10. Rev. 22:14 says, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." The Bible definitely connects faith and works. Baptism is the third act of repentance and the first act of works. It, thereby, ties together conversion and a life of works for Christ. We must be sure we give our drinks of water and do all our works in Christ's name. They are not to be done in our name for the praise of men or we may cancel our heavenly credit.

The prophetic writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, David, Solomon, the minor prophets, Christ and the Apostle John plus others are rich in information for latter day study, NOW. How my heart

yearns for the old time prayer meeting and Bible study when people were not too busy to gather together one evening a week. They could pray for the sick in body and soul and whatever else was needful. They could show themselves unto Christ and get their souls prepared to meet the Lord at His coming so they could go with Him to the marriage supper of the Lamb at the end of this age.

The foolish virgins are the unprepared who will be as the world of people in Noah's day and in Sodom and Gomorrah before the water and the fiery brimstone took them away. We are living in the evil end time in pleasures and sins of all kinds. People continue to follow the crowd in their revelry much the same as the people of Israel did right up to the time they were carried away to Babylon, when their beautiful city of Jerusalem destroyed.

Which are we traveling, the narrow road or the broad road? Many people are traveling the broad way where they have lots of company. Very, very few are traveling the narrow road. I believe we are in a testing period now. The Lord's angel is marking His bride saints. It is high time to search our hearts and prepare to meet our maker and Redeemer. We will soon experience the greatest holocaust this world has ever experienced.

One day as I was sewing these words came to me. I jotted them down. I hope they encourage my readers as much as they did me.

When we get to Heaven
Won't it be wonderful there
In that home bright and fair
There will be cheer for the lonely
And comfort for the sad.

Cheer up brother and sister
Prepare for the meeting in the sky
That will last forever with the saints of all ages
Streets of gold, gates of pearl
With Yashua King of Glory
And hosts of angels bright
Singing, Hallelujah PRAISE THE LAMB.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
6159 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1937

WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

L. W. Beery

With the fulfillment of prophecy regarding the period of time just preceding the return of our Lord to earth to be seen on every hand,

we should give some thought as to what our lot as Christian people will be, as we approach the end. The scriptures speak of various matters along this line which should be of interest to us.

With the forces of evil coming into control in so many ways and coming out more boldly, it appears as if it will require a greater effort on the part of Christian people to maintain their integrity and keep their forces operating successfully. In fact, the indications are that it will necessitate a great struggle, and then we may not be able to accomplish very much; rather, it seems from several scriptural statements given us, that for a time the efforts and influence of Christian people on the earth will be brought to naught by the evil power which shall come into control.

In the book of Daniel are some passages that read much like some of the statements in revelations on this matter. In chapter seven, verses 21 and 25 read like this: "I behold, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them...and he shall speak great words against the most High and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." In the thirteenth chapter of Revelations where it speaks of the "beast" it states, "and he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." (verses 6-7). There are other references on this matter but these are sufficient for the points we have in mind.

There are three things of importance mentioned in these references which we wish to notice briefly. First, it appears that there will be a "beast" or evil power arise that shall come into control of the whole earth, "all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Evidently all civil government will act as this power dictates and the will of the beast (blasphemy and extermination of truth) will be reflected in the laws and regulations that govern all people living on the earth at that time.

Second, this evil power will "make war" with the saints who are living on earth at that time. This will likely be a one-sided warfare for the people of God do not resort to carnal warfare. Since this is to be a godless power and one that will blaspheme God and all things sacred, naturally it will manifest a hostile attitude toward Christian people who live under its jurisdiction. Since the term war is used, it appears that this power in control will exercise active opposition and strive violently against the church of the Living God. Again, since civil

government will be under the direction of this power it is easy to see how this warfare or violent opposition could be carried on. The rulers of the various nations of the earth could enact laws that would bring severe persecution and oppression upon Christian people, and which would be aimed at the devastation and disintegration of the church organization. All church property might be confiscated, religious freedom denied, our earthly possessions might be plundered and destroyed and all religious literature might be forbidden circulation in the mails. Under these conditions the church would be in great duress. An expression in the passage from Daniel gives some light on the matter where it says this evil power will "wear out" the saints of the most High. Evidently in this period of time the church will be continually harassed and oppressed to the extent that they will be in great trouble, anxiety and perplexity.

Third, the saints or Christians will be delivered into the power and control of the beast for a time. According to the visions of Daniel and John the Revelator the evil one "prevailed against them...they shall be given into his hand...and to overcome them." From the language used in these references it appears that the warfare or severe opposition waged by the evil one against the saints shall be successful to the extent that it will result in the devastation and disintegration of the church. During this time no doubt many faithful ones will be imprisoned and slain because they will not renounce Christ and yield to the evil power. Under such conditions it seems about the only thing that the followers of Christ could do would be to get together in little bands and worship in secret as time and opportunity provided.

It appears from the scriptural references dealing with this matter, that this period of time during which the beast shall be in power will be of short duration and then the Lord will come for His people. "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days shall be shortened, there shall no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matt. 24:21-22).

It seems impossible that such conditions as these scriptures indicate could ever exist in this so called "Christian" America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, but in view of present developments these very conditions are threatening us this very hour.

"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:44).

OBITUARY

FAE KASZA

Sis. Fae Virginia (Reed) Kasza entered into this world on March 28, 1932, and departed this life March 9, 1997, at home. She was 64 years old. She was the eighth child and first daughter born to William Sherman and Mary Jane (Jameson) Reed of rural Ferris, Illinois.

On May 26, 1956, she was married to Bro. Eugene Kasza of McClave, Colorado. Fae was a loving, dedicated wife and mother. She and Eugene have four children and twenty-one grandchildren.

She gave her heart to the Lord in the summer of 1950 and was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church at Dallas Center, Iowa. She was a faithful member of the Church until her death.

She had a special way of encouraging others in the faith especially her grandchildren. She was a member of the Gideon's Auxiliary and the Marshall Quilt Guild. Her hobbies included quilting and sewing for her grandchildren.

Fae was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Kyle and Lloyd.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene and their four children, Becky and Kevin Funk of Dallas Center, Iowa, Tim and Mary Lou Kasza of Shelby, Michigan, Russell and Laura Kasza of Higginsville, Missouri and Marlene and Dennis Meyers of Adel, Iowa, and twenty one grandchildren: Peter, Zachary, Mark, Rhoda, Betsy, and Matthias Funk, Elizabeth, Ezra, Samuel, Philip, Esther, and Priscilla Kasza, Andrew, Jennifer, and David Kasza, Owen, Valerie, Scott, Amanda, Wesley and Patricia Meyers. Six brothers and their wives and two sisters and their husbands survive her; Elbert and Jan of Des Moines, Iowa, Millard and Irene of Bull Shoals, Arkansas, Ray and Beulah of Dallas Center, Iowa, William and Leona of Quinter, Kansas, John and Lorraine of Des Moines, Iowa, Oty and Juanita of McClave, Colorado; Edna and Ivon Wertz of McClave, Colorado and Ruth and Galen Haldeman of Dallas Center, Iowa, a sister-in-law Lena Reed of Bethel, Pennsylvania, a brother-in-law Willard Kasza and wife Maxine of McClave, Colorado and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held, Wednesday, March 12, 1997, at 1:30 at the Campbell-Lewis Funeral Home with Bros. Mark Andrews and Leonard Wertz officiating. She was laid to rest at Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, Missouri.

Thank you, all, for the many cards and letters of encouragement sent throughout Sis. Fae's illness. They were greatly appreciated.

Bro. Eugene Kasza and family

NEWS ITEM

GENERAL CONFERENCE

June 6-11, 1997

The Lord willing General Conference will be held at Maranatha Bible Camp, Maxwell, Nebraska, located 13 miles east of North Platte, Nebraska, on Interstate 80. Get off of Interstate 80 at the Maxwell, Nebraska exit, then 1/2 mile south to the frontage road, then west to the grounds. (Approximately 1 1/2 miles.)

You need to bring your own bedding and pillows. Bedding will be provided for those coming by plane or bus. Those coming by plane or bus to North Platte, can call the grounds for someone to pick them up. There is no bus station at Maxwell.

Send reservations to:

Bro. Jerry Moss

2475 240th St.

Dallas Center, IA 50063

Address of grounds:

Bro. Marvin Haldeman

Box 304

Quinter, KS 67752

Maranatha Bible Camp

H C O Box 51

Maxwell, NB 69151-9715

Telephone 308-582-4516

Bro. Carl E. Reed

Locating Committee

NOTICE

Paul and Carolyn Mellott and family and Elizabeth Hebb and family will host an Open House for Homer and Rosalee Mellott to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Open house will be May 18, 1997, at the Pine Grove Church of the Brethren, Swallow Falls, Maryland from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Those wanting to send cards, their address is:

Homer and Rosalee Mellott

1375 Mellott Rd.

Oakland, MD 21550-9805

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Jacob C. Ness, Secretary
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Tom Jamison
R.2 Box 30
Hoxie, KS 67740
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

MAY 15, 1997

NO. 10

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE ARMIES OF THE SKIES

Ten thousand times ten thousand
In sparkling raiment bright,
The armies of the ransomed saints
Throng up the steeps of light.
'Tis finished, all is finished,
Their flight with death and sin;
Fling open wide the golden gates
And let the victors in.

What rush of hallelujahs
Fill all the earth and sky!
What ringing of a thousand harps
Bespeaks the triumph nigh!
O day for which creation
And all its tribes were made;
O joy, for all its former woes
A thousand-fold repaid!

O then what raptured greetings
On Canaan's happy shore,
What knitting severed friendships up
Where partings are no more!
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle,
That brimmed with tears of late;
Orphans no longer fatherless,
Nor widows desolate.

-Henry Alford

FAMILY REUNION

During the Summer many families gather for their annual reunions. It is a time for becoming reacquainted with the Aunts, Uncles, Cousins and various other relatives. Depending on the family, the members may be drawn from a relatively small geographical area or from an area spread across many states. The members of some families may be very much alike. They not only have a physical similarity, but also a psychological, educational and religious similarity. Other families are very diverse. The members of those families may not agree on much of anything, whether religious, political, or economic. The one thing everyone at a family reunion does agree on is that the food is good.

There is another, annual family reunion, although it is not called a family reunion. General Conference is a reunion of God's earthly family. The Brethren and Sisters gather from a wide geographical area. Many will not have seen each other since the last Conference that they both attended. It is a time for becoming reacquainted. It is a time to catch up on family and congregational news. As the members become better acquainted their love and concern for each other can increase. The sharing of everyday events and feelings can knit together those who are usually far from one another.

Of course there are more reasons to gather together at General Conference than to discuss personal and temporal affairs. The meeting is dedicated to the sharing of the Word of God. There are several seasons set aside for the proclaiming of the preached word. The preaching of the Gospel is not one man sharing his opinions, ideas and tangents. Preaching is the delivering of a message from

THE BIBLE MONITOR

MAY 15, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

God to His people. It may be evangelistic, prophetic, doctrinal or pietistic. Whatever its subject, it is to be an authoritative message delivered by the minister with the expectation that it will be obeyed. Preaching is not just an exercise in wordsmithing and oratorical skill. Handling God's Word is a serious business. It is not a matter of humor, dramatics and entertainment, but of a message proclaiming eternal life for those who will accept the offered plan of salvation. It is a message that will instruct in a lifestyle that will bring true blessings to the one who will obey.

Besides the fellowship and the preaching, General Conference is the time when the business of the Church is conducted. Whether by vote or acclamation, decisions are made that will affect the future course of the Church. The business of Standing Committee is to look into the various problems, questions and proposed actions that affect individuals, congregations, districts or the Brotherhood at large. Standing Committee does not discuss the queries that are before that year's General Conference. During the General Conference business session, queries and reports are discussed and acted upon. The decisions of General Conference are transmitted to the several congregations through the minutes of that meeting.

Although all those who congregate at General Conference would not agree upon every item, there is a Brotherly love demonstrated that makes disagreements less nasty than would be expected. Although Brethren might disagree they need not fall out of love with each other. They can continue to worship and work together for the increase of the Church and for the Lord's honor and glory. Those who disagree the sharpest with each other, if they would compare their beliefs over the whole range of what they believe, would find that they actually agree on over ninety-five percent of their beliefs. The business of the Church is serious business. It deserves the prayers and concern of all members, whether present or not. This business should be of such importance that all, not only the delegates, would be present for the business session. There, the views of all present may be made known. Those making the final decision will have the moral support of others.

General Conference is but a foretaste of the greatest family reunion of all. When God's family gathers for that eternal reunion in Heaven, all family reunions and General Conferences, on Earth, will pale into insignificance. The reunion in Heaven will be an everlasting reunion. There will be no parting scenes as happens when God's people gather here on Earth. To be gathered there with God, the Father, the Son, and The Holy Ghost and all the saints of the past ages will be a reunion to surpass all reunions we have ever known here.

Are you attending a family reunion this Summer? Are you attending General Conference this year? Are you prepared to spend an eternity with God in that greatest of all Family Reunions?

M.C.Cook

THE CHRISTIAN AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Christians and governments have had conflicts since the birth of Christianity. The Apostles, when charged by the Jewish authorities not to teach in Christ's name, responded by saying, "We ought to obey God rather than man" Acts 5:29. Recently, a proposed amendment to an education bill created considerable concern to Christian Schools and Home Schoolers.

What should the Christian's response be when his convictions conflict with governmental demands? Should Christians use the political process to encourage social betterment? What does the Bible reveal on this issue? How has the Church historically responded to such problems? In the Christian community today there is a great diversity of answers given to these questions.

Historically, there have been several issues in America in which the church has become involved. Slavery, temperance, the peace movement, abortion, women's rights and gay rights are examples of issues that have affected society-at-large. The church became actively involved and in some instances is still involved. Refusing military service, refusing to pay "war taxes", and educational issues would be examples of concerns that have more directly involved Christians rather than society as a whole.

It may be of particular interest for us to examine some of the issues in which the Brethren became involved with the government. Their attitudes and responses in the conflicts and concerns they encountered are useful to us as learning experiences.

The first major conflict between the government and the Brethren, after they had arrived in America from Europe, occurred during the Revolutionary War. The viewpoint of the "patriots" and the viewpoint of the Brethren were not the same.

The Brethren had fled from persecution in Europe. They were deeply grateful toward the British Crown for providing them a haven, where they could worship God as they thought right. The Brethren were not convinced that God had removed the rightful authority from the English Monarch and had given it to those who were fighting against the King.

When the conflict broke out it was not an issue with the Brethren as to whether they would or would not bear arms and fight. The conviction against the taking the life of another human was deeply

held.

On November 7, 1775 the German Baptists [Brethren] and the Mennonites jointly submitted a document to the Pennsylvania General Assembly stating their position in relation to the hostilities that had broken out earlier that year. The main points of this document we find in these excerpts:

"We have dedicated ourselves to serve all men in everything that can be helpful to the preservation of men's lives, but we find no freedom in giving, or doing, or assisting in anything whereby men's lives are destroyed or hurt. We are also ready to pay the tribute. We are also willing to be subject to the higher powers."

There were three main issues on which these Brethren as a group were called upon to determine a course of action. One issue arose when the Pennsylvania legislature enacted a law in 1777 requiring an oath of allegiance or an "attest" from her citizens. Annual Meeting of 1778 responded with this directive:

"After much reflection, in the fear of the Lord, it has been concluded in union that the brethren who have taken the attest should recall it before a justice, and give up their certificate, and recall and apologize in their churches, and truly repent of their error. If they cannot do this, and instead justify themselves, the apostle exhorts us that we should withdraw ourselves from every brother who conducts himself wrongly, and such brother will be deprived of the kiss of fellowship, of the council and of the breaking of bread, until he becomes obedient again."

The Brethren felt they could not give their support or allegiance to the conflict that was raging.

Two other issues the Brethren had to deal with were the hiring of substitutes to serve in the rebel militia and the matter of whether to pay taxes that supported the war. Again, we turn to their written records to discover their response.

"Inasmuch as at the great meeting in Conestoga last year, it was unanimously concluded that we should not pay the substitute money; but inasmuch as it has been overlooked here and there and some have not regarded it, therefore we, the assembled brethren, exhort in union all brethren everywhere to hold themselves guiltless and take no part in war or bloodshedding, which might take place if we would voluntarily pay for hiring men, or yet more if we became agents to collect such money. But concerning the tax, it is considered that on account of the troublesome times and in order to avoid offense, we might follow the example of Christ (Matt. 17:24-17). Yet, if one does not see it so and thinks perhaps, he for conscience sake could not pay it, but bear with others who pay in

patience, we would willingly go along inasmuch as we deem the overruling of conscience to be wrong."

What do we learn from these Brethren? We note their humility and willingness to be subject to "higher powers". We see that they gave their congregations some firm direction as to a course to follow in those troubling times. We also see their willingness to give some room for individual conscience on the matter of "war taxes". For their faith and convictions they faced consequences. They had to pay heavy fines in some instances, while others had possessions and properties confiscated by the authorities. There were even some scattered cases of brutality. In the end, they preserved a clear conscience before their God.

To be continued
Brother Dennis St. John

HOSPITALITY — A COMMAND OF GOD

In the New Testament we are taught that being hospitable is a very important part of the Christian life. God makes it clear that we need to be friendly to all men, not just the upper class or the cordial, but everyone.

Hospitality is much more than just having people come visit us. Our job as a host should include warmly welcoming them, making them feel at home and comfortable, and meeting their needs as best we can while they are at our house. We should prepare nice meals for them, not being extravagant, but not hoarding our good foods for ourselves either. If we know something special our guest likes, we should try to fit it in the menu, being willing to share what we have with them, realizing that all we have is not really ours but the Lord's.

We need to be sensitive to our guest's feelings. They may be very tired after a long trip, and delight in time to rest, or they might be wishing to keep busy and need an activity to attend. We should plan events to keep them busy so they can enjoy their stay to the fullest, keeping their needs before our own. The Bible gives us an example of this in I Kings 17. The Prophet Elijah stopped at a widow's house and asked her to make a cake for him to eat. The young widow was very poor and only had enough supplies to make one more cake for her and her only son. Then they would die of hunger. But Elijah said that God would supply all her needs if she would only have faith and give what she had to supply his need. The widow obeyed, and God did bless her richly with food to sustain them. Following God's commands may require sacrifice, but He always has multitudes of blessings waiting for us if the job is done willingly! Jesus gave us the perfect example of serving others rather than ourselves.

Jesus also says we must serve and not expect anything in return, especially if our guests are poor and in need of a helping hand. Hospitality is a character trait that is very important to God, and He expects us as His children to help others of His creation.

We do not have to wait for people to ask if they may stay at our place — we should make the first move and make them feel welcomed anytime. It should be known that our home is a hospitality center, and is open all the time. Yes, we will need to meet new people and faces, but they might turn out to be some of our dearest, closest friends in the future.

As we prepare our place for visitors, get it tidy and clean. We should wash the beds and be happy to share them. We should make our rooms cheery and inviting, maybe even bringing in a bouquet of fresh flowers. Something cooking or baking lends to warmth. We should prepare to have good, worthwhile conversations, asking them questions like: "Where were you born and raised?" "Who has influenced you most in life?" "How were you led to Christ?" We can find out more about our guest and probably be encouraged too.

A guest book is a great way of remembering our visitors and bringing back many good memories of our time spent together. Always in our serving, we should show a gracious, sweet spirit and touch guest's lives with Christ's love.

Romans 12:13, "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

Sister Janell Meyers

THE SONS OF KOHATH

Numbers 7:4, 5, 6, 9, "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take it of them, that they may be to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; and thou shalt give them unto the Levites, to every man according to his service. And Moses took the wagons and the oxen, and gave them unto the Levites...But unto the sons of Kohath he gave none: because the service of the sanctuary belonging unto them was that they should bear upon their shoulders."

The Levites were a special people within the Israelite nation. They were set apart for the work of the Lord. Even among these set apart individuals, we find a group of people with a special service. We find three spiritual lessons in the special duties assigned to the sons of Kohath.

First of all we find that they were not given wagons and oxen. We find in this the spiritual truth of walking with the Lord in place of "riding" the trends of the world. There are many who are willing to call themselves Christian, but few who are willing to forsake the things of

the world to follow Christ. The subject of how we should attire ourselves is a real thorn in the flesh for some. The majority of the adherents of Christianity refuse to even discuss the subject of modest dress. Each individual is allowed to dress as their conscience leads them. We are entering the season of the year when the results will be obvious. For a large segment of the plain churches plain hats and bonnets are no longer an issue, unless they are ridiculed. It seems that fewer and fewer are wearing the plain coat and in those denominations who still observe it, it is taken off as soon as weather permits, often replaced with a jacket with a collar, and put on only when the weather get very cold, and then often only for special occasions such as Lovefeast. The line of separation from the world in worldly pleasures is becoming very obscure. God is the final judge as to who are His true children, but we are convinced that the true examples of God's set apart people are those who are willing to look and live differently from the world.

Secondly, we find that they were willing to serve without receiving "paid benefits." We see in this the spiritual lesson of dedication without worldly remuneration. Our Elders and ministers are a perfect example of this. While they faithfully labor for the Lord, while holding down a job, it is often without proper respect and gratitude. We are certain that there are faithful individuals who are a part of the paid ministry. We believe they have the blessing of God upon them as they faithfully expound His Word and feed the flock. However, there are those who only desire to have the riches of this world. The Bible teaches that a leader in the Church should not be greedy of filthy lucre. Only God knows the hearts of those who literally have made millions of dollars through their "ministry." We are persuaded that those in the free ministry have a special blessing from God. There is also a lesson in this for the layman. Do we drop a dollar bill in the collection plate, then send large sums to those who are already rich in this world's goods? When we do something for the Church, do we always expect to be paid for it. Do we use our time, effort and money to help spread the gospel and to uphold the truth without expecting God to bless us financially? We are persuaded that God will bless us and supply our needs if we give to His work. Monetary blessing should not be our motive.

Finally, we find that the service belonging to the sons of Kohath was that they should bear upon their shoulders. Are we willing to take the hard tasks upon our shoulders for the Lord? Not everyone is called to witness to the drug addict, the alcoholic, the prostitute, and other "low life" individuals. Would we be willing to go if the Lord called us to do so? Another aspect of this taking the load upon our

shoulders is taking responsibility for our actions. In Galatians 6:2 we read, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We also read in verses 4 and 5 of this chapter, "But let every man prove his own work, and; then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden."

We believe God desires for each of us to be spiritual sons (and daughters) of Kohath. He will not give us "wagons and oxen" but He has given the Holy Spirit to aid us. May our desire be to serve Him more faithfully.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

GOD IS LOVE

"God," that three-lettered word brings up all sorts of images to modern man. To many, the word represents someone unknown. To some, it is a word to be feared. But to those of us who know God intimately, the name brings to mind thoughts of love, kindness, mercy and an ever-present friend.

God is Sovereign. More than that, "God is God". No human being can ever be God, for God is greater than His creation. He who creates is greater than he who is created. God is Sovereign because He is the one in control of His creation. He has given man the freedom to choose right or wrong, good or evil, God or Satan, Heaven or Hell. He lets us make our own choices.

God does not change His mind. He never makes a mistake. Any study of God's Sovereignty must enlarge our understanding of God's greatness. The children's prayer at dinnertime: "God is great, God is good. Let us thank Him for our food", expresses it so simply, yet so well. Indeed God is great. He created our world with a pronouncement from Heaven. He can destroy it with a wave of His hand. The more we obey God, the more we discover that He has our best interests at heart. The more we learn to trust God, the more we love Him.

Once we settle that God is God, then we resolve that He should be served. In serving Him, we learn that He is good. Because He is good, we come to love Him. Love is the result of our knowing and trusting Him. Virtues result from obeying God. We must obey God as the Sovereign one, who rules over our lives.

God's love must be expressed and it is. The Bible says, in Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Psalms 100:3, "Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath

made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

In the world we shall have tribulation, "But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33b.

The love of God is something that must happen deep inside our hearts. It is not enough that Jesus Christ died on the cross for you and me. The death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary was God's greatest expression of His love—reaching out to us. On the cross God reached out to us, to touch us and to save us!

Let us strive to love God more each day as we remember how much Jesus suffered on the cross for us.

Sister Myrtle Broadwater
Shrewsbury Congregation

GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS

John 6:12, "When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

Matthew 18:12, "How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?"

The Bible tells us in Matthew 16:26 that a man's soul is worth more than the whole world. It seems that mankind is busy trying to find out what the world is worth, and how they can accumulate their share of it. With many it takes an earth-shattering event or the loss of a loved one to get them interested in their souls.

We can learn from the teachings of Jesus that He believed small things to be important. In the feeding of the multitude He made sure that the leftovers were collected. He taught about the flock of sheep and how the shepherd would strike out even if only one were missing. Do not think that your life is insignificant to the Lord. Some say that they are not important enough to matter to God, yet even a sparrow shall not fall to the ground without Him knowing. (Matt. 10:29) We are told in the next verse that even the hairs of our heads are numbered. Jesus said in John 6:39, "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

Though the Lord puts much value on those who have gone astray, the stragglers and the insignificant, many times mortals do not. Heaven forbid that the church would ever lose its fire for souls. The church needs new people - new blood - in order to survive. In Acts 2:47 it says that the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. We are told in I Corinthians 12:11 that every Christian has a

gift and a purpose in the Kingdom of God: "But all these (the Spiritual Gifts) worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." The Holy Spirit divides the abilities and gifts between the children of God. Every Christian, regardless of his talents, is important to the Body.

Jesus admonished His disciples to "Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost." When a soul leaves the church, many say, "Good riddance." This person may have caused trouble, or perhaps just did not fit in. They may have been more trouble than you thought they were worth, but Jesus looked at them differently. He was that shepherd that left the ninety and nine and went into the mountains to find me, that sheep which was gone astray.

In I Peter 2:5, Peter compares individual Christians to "lively stones...built up a spiritual house." We are a collective building, mortared together by the Holy Ghost. Who chooses the stones for the building? The builder, or course, puts the building together. Do we realize the importance of this body and our part in it?

What tho' the gates of hell withstood,

Yet must this building rise;

'Tis thine own work, Almighty God,

And wondrous in our eyes.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561

Newmanstown, PA 17073

INTERCESSION

The Supernatural

Continued from April 15, 1997 Issue

God does have power over all aspects of the natural. He does work there, however that is not His specialty. We have a certain amount of power in that realm, so He leaves a lot of that up to us. His specialty is the supernatural. God can do anything He wants to do including things that totally defy the human mind and comprehension. We as humans have no actual power there, so our only recourse is through God.

Believe it or not, we can influence God to work in supernatural ways. That influence is gained through prayer. If our heart is right before God and our prayers are earnest, we are capable of being instrumental in mighty, spiritual works. Angels are standing ready to heed God's commands. Many of those commands are influenced by praying saints, even to the pulling down of strongholds. II Corinthians 10:3-4, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through

God to the pulling down of strongholds;)" Keep this in mind when reading part three and four.

Brother Roger Swihart
Quinter, KS 67752

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1937

SHALL WE TAKE COUNSEL OF GOD OR MAN?

Ida M. Helm

Each one of us have at times important decisions to make and we feel the need of counsel to determine the best course to pursue that the desired end may be attained. There is benefit in wise counsel and danger in evil counsel. The decisions we make are colored by the counsel we take and the influence of our decisions reaches out and colors other lives.

The twelfth chapter of first Kings tells us how Rehoboam forsook the wise counsel of the old men though the ripe advice they gave they had gained from years of experience under the reign of King David, the man after God's own heart. Rehoboam, by following the counsel of his young courtiers and rejecting the wise counsel of the old men, plunged his kingdom into irreparable damage and was compelled to flee for his life.

In every important department of life, whether it be business, the ministry of the Word, marriage or whatever it be, wise counsel is needed. Counselors for guidance need to be very carefully chosen to be competent to guide aright in the matter to be considered. Rehoboam made his irreparable mistake, not by rejecting counsel, but by choosing incompetent and foolish counselors and allowing himself to be guided by them. A wise man said, "There are many devices in a man's heart, nevertheless the counsel of the Lord that shall stand." (Prov. 19:27). Men's devices fail and leave sorrow and disappointment in their wake, but giving heed to the counsel of the righteous brings rich blessings, peace of mind and stability.

"Who hath dictated to the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor, hath taught him?" "All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity." (Isaiah 40:13, 17).

How futile are the devices that men make in their own hearts, despising and ignoring the eternal counsel of God, before whose power the nations are but light as straw before the wind. The early church took counsel of the most spiritual and God-fearing men in making their decisions. In (Acts 25:25) we read, "It seemed good unto us...to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul. Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our

Lord Jesus Christ...for it seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things." These holy men of God would not take one step without first humbly and prayerfully counseling God. In the light of Jesus teaching the Holy spirit inwardly guided and set His seal on the decisions they came to in their council meeting and the church carried out externally and ecclesiastical authority of the decisions vested in the church by God. In the counsel of God there is power. Herein lies secret strength. Jesus rules the universe; His wisdom and counsel hangs over our heads ready to lead us into light, righteousness, life and peace whether we choose to look up and see Him with hands outstretched to us or not. His counsel is immutable, it is eternal.

In the book of Nehemiah we read of a people that were taking evil counsel against God's people, but God's people put their trust in their Creator and they had a mind to do God's work and they put their whole heart and strength and soul and mind to work for God as He had counseled His people and God brought the evil counsel of the enemy to naught and the work of His people was crowned with success.

Job thought that he was a good counselor and at one time God condemned him for making dark the plan of God when he spake where he did not understand. Job was too bold in expressing his opinion of God's plan without first counseling God and making sure he had the will of the Deity when speaking. When God is speaking we often fail to hear His voice because of our divided attention. Perhaps we are listening to human voices around us and perhaps giving heed to unwise counsel. If we close our ears to the babble of voices around us and give heed to God as He speaks to us through His word and to Spirit-filled men of God who are walking with Jesus every day we can truthfully say, "Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is of God. What things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." (1 Cor. 2:12-13).

The Apostle Paul counsels his spiritual son, Timothy, to fight the good fight of faith. Listen! His counsel is for us also, "Lay hold on eternal life whereunto thou art also called and hast prepared a good profession before many witnesses." (1 Tim. 6:12). We are repeatedly warned to fight against the flesh, realizing if we lose the fight against the flesh and allow the works of the flesh to be manifest in our life is to jeopardize our heavenly inheritance. "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world." (1 John 2:16). We must gain the victory in the fight against the world, for the world is at enmity against

God. Paul counsels us to have on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand before the subtle adversary that comes sometimes as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour and sometimes he comes transformed as an angel of light.

To the lukewarm, self-righteous Laodiceans God said, "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve that thou mayest see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent." (Rev. 4:18-19).

Paul's counsels are very wise and tender and personal. He counsels his spiritual son, Timothy, to watch and be faithful in preaching the Word and not "gag" the truth, the Word or shun to declare the whole counsel of God. When Paul lived slavery was rampant in the Roman world. There were more slaves than free men. No one could be more cruel and heartless than a Roman master to his slaves if he was inclined that way. However, not all of the masters were so tyrannical and heartless and occasionally one was kind hearted. Paul writing to Timothy exhorts, "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own master worthy of all honor, that the name of God and His doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefits. These things teach and exhort." (1 Tim. 6:1-2). He exhorts masters to forbear threatening, to treat their servants with singleness of heart, "As unto Christ." He says, "Your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with Him." Paul's teaching is that all have one Divine parentage, all have alike been redeemed by the atoning blood of God's Son, Jesus Christ. All are alike servants of Jesus Christ and thus all are alike bondsmen in the only service that is free. Paul nowhere counsels anyone to take up arms in war or to fight in any army or at any time.

When Jesus was crucified St. Luke tells us, "Behold there was a man named Joseph, a counselor; and he was a good man and a just man. The same had not consented to the council and deed of them...who also himself waited for the kingdom of God." (Luke 22:50-51). If the men that crucified Jesus had given heed to the wise counsel of Joseph they would not have crucified the Son of God. Joseph was a good man and a counselor. He belonged to the Sanhedrin.

NEWS ITEMS

HART, MICHIGAN

The Lord willing, the Hart Congregation will have Revival Services, July 13 through July 20. Bro. David Aungst, of Bethel, Pennsylvania will be the evangelist. Saturday worship begins at 11:00 A.M., Examination service at 2:00 P.M. and Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M.

We invite one and all to come and join us. Enjoy the fellowship, praying that souls will be touched by the Master's hand and strengthened for His service.

We, the Hart Congregation, extend our deep appreciation to those who joined us for the Sixty-eighth District Conference. We especially thank the ministering Brethren: Bro. Dennis St. John, Bro. Paul Stump, Bro. Harley Flory, Bro. Edward Johnson, Bro. Fred Johnson, Bro. William Carpenter, and Bro. Robert Carpenter for giving of their time and effort in sharing soul searching messages for our hungry souls. May God bless each one.

Sister Anna M. Powell, Cor.

APPRECIATION

To my friends who sent me cards for my birthday. Thank you.

Brother Otto Harris

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1997

June 1 - The Forgiveness of Onesimus - Philemon 1-25.

1. How was Onesimus now different from when he had previously served Philemon?
2. Why did Paul send Onesimus back to Philemon?

June 8 - Jesus: The Express Image of God - Hebrews 1:1-14.

1. How has God spoken unto us?
2. Explain the purpose and work of angels in God's creation.

June 15 - Father's Day - Genesis 22:1-13.

1. Name the qualities of a good father which Abraham demonstrated in his life.
2. Explain the importance of a father demonstrating faith before his children.

June 22 - Maintaining Our Faithfulness - Hebrews 2:1-3.

1. What are the things which we have heard?
2. What is the word spoken by angels?

June 29 - The Value of Man in the Sight of God - Hebrews 2:4-8.

1. Why is God mindful of mankind?
2. How has God visited mankind?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1997

June 1 - The Lord's Prayer - Matt. 6:9-13.

1. How could saying the Lord's prayer become a vain repetition?

2. How often should we pray the same thing in prayer to God?

June 8 - God's Tool Chest - I Cor. 1:21-31.

1. What qualities are found in the Master's tools?

2. How important is size in determining the value of a tool?

June 15 - Fathers - Gen. 27:26-27, I Kings 2:1-4, Luke 1:67, Acts 10:2.

1. Explain the importance of a son/daughter being truthful with his/her earthly father, his/her Heavenly Father.

2. Why is being a Godly example the most important thing a father can give to his children?

June 22 - Mountain Climbing - Matt. 5:1-16.

1. Why is it so important to receive God's blessing?

2. Why must we first be reconciled to our brother before we offer our gift to God?

June 29 - Loving Others - I Cor. 13:1-13.

1. Explain why love must be the most important characteristic of our lives.

2. Name the ways' true love will manifest itself in our lives.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

JUNE 1, 1997

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Thou art the way;—to thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek
Must seek him, Lord, in thee.

Thou art the truth;—thy word alone
True wisdom can impart;
Thou only canst instruct the mind,
And purify the heart.

Thou art the life; the rending tomb
Proclaims thy conquering arm,
And those who put their trust in thee,
Not death nor hell shall harm.

Thou art the way, the truth, the life;—
Grant us to know that way
That truth to keep, that life to win,
Which leads to endless day.

Selected

THE ENEMY OF GOD

Why would anyone want to be the enemy of God?

It is never enjoyable to have an enemy. Ill-will causes problems not only for the one toward whom the ill-will is directed. It is just as troublesome to those who bear the ill-will. Psychologically, one bearing ill feelings is as eaten up with that poison as the one who is on the receiving end of that venom.

Those who try to get even with their enemies usually find that the getting even actually makes the situation worse. Jesus spoke of how enemies should be treated. His method was more successful than that which springs from the heart and mind of the natural man. Jesus said that enemies were to be loved and to be prayed for. This is the reverse of the usual means of dealing with enemies. Instead of getting even, doing good to those who would do evil proves a better way of handling enemies. When enemies are loved rather than hated, the reason for their hatred should be abated rather than increased. Seeking the well-being of an enemy is more noteworthy than seeking the well-being of a friend or relative. It is so unusual that it is almost unbelievable. To pray for an enemy releases a great burden of ill-will from our lives. It is virtually impossible to pray for a person and hate him at the same time. Doing good rather than evil in return to an enemy is putting the hot coals of shame upon him. When he receives that kindness, it should cause him to be ashamed of himself. When enough goodness is shown, instead of evil, there may be an opportunity for reconciliation.

We may not be inclined to associate with every person. The lifestyles, habits, geographical locations, or other factors may

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JUNE 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

preclude being actively involved with some people. Although we do not associate with these people, they still should not be our enemies. We should present the Spirit of God through our living in such a way that although we may not be loved or liked by others, they will at least respect us. They will not want to be our enemies.

If it is such a harmful thing to have enemies among fellow humans, why would any want to choose to be the enemy of God? It requires a definite choice to be God's enemy. God has done everything possible so none would be His enemy. Unfortunately not all avail themselves of the opportunity that He has provided.

God's original enemy is Satan. Satan led a great revolt amongst the angels of Heaven against God. In his pride he wished to set himself as the equal of God. This he could not do without opposing God. Since then, he has tried every method to thwart God's work. He enlisted the aid of mankind in the Garden of Eden. There he appeared to Eve to tempt her to disobey the commands of God. He was successful in his ruse to enlist her aid. Since that time it has been natural for man to be the enemy of God. Sin has become the natural pattern for men. As long as man clings to sin and Satan, he will be the enemy of God.

Man may try to paper-over his differences with God. However, as long as sin remains, there will be a great gulf fixed between God and man. The natural man does what comes naturally.

God does not want this enemy relationship. He would prefer that all men would choose to be His friend. Instead they have chosen to be friends with the surrounding, world system. It is easier to be the friend with the seen and known world than to be the friend of God, who can not be seen. God has provided the means that all might be His friend. He has extended His Grace and Mercy toward mankind, so the separation between them and Him can be broken down. He provided the perfect sacrifice, His Son Jesus Christ, for their sins. By His redeeming sacrifice, men can, if they accept it, become His friends.

Not only might they be His friends, they also might become a part of His family. As much as we appreciate our families, being a part of God's family is even greater. Those who choose to accept His offer of salvation become a part of His family. He offers to mankind the honor of being His sons and daughters. His sons and daughters do not desire to be friends with the natural world that is under the control of Satan.

Satan is seeking those who will allow themselves to be enmeshed in the philosophies, desires, programs, and sins of this present world. Those who allow themselves to be used by Satan become the enemies of God. The enemies of God along with their leader Satan

are going to suffer the terrible consequences of their hostility toward God. The punishments awaiting Satan and those who choose to follow him are so terrible that all should be deterred from following that downward and painful course.

Why would anyone want to be the enemy of God? Do you?

M.C.Cook

THE CHRISTIAN AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Continued from May 15, 1997 Issue

The Civil War, likewise, brought difficulties to the Brethren, particularly the Brethren who lived in the South. Confederate recruiters put considerable pressure on the Brethren and Mennonites. Many fled to the mountains to hide, others tried to escape to the North, but some were captured and imprisoned.

Brethren and Mennonite leaders worked diligently by constant communication with Confederate leaders to attempt to secure an exemption. Eventually the Virginia Legislature and later the Confederate Congress did pass laws of exemption.

This did not protect the Brethren from local hostilities as evidenced by several Brethren who were killed, the most well known being Elder John Kline, who was ambushed and killed shortly after he had returned home from an Annual Meeting in Indiana. He had served as Moderator of that Annual Meeting.

It is worthwhile to note the words of a prominent Harrisonburg attorney concerning the granting of exemptions. He was quoted as saying, "Their quiet submission to authority all the way, did more to impress the members of that Congress than all other influences together." This referred to the situation when seventy Brethren and Mennonites were captured trying to flee to the North. Apparently the conduct of this group made a favorable impression upon those who had observed them.

By World War I, there had been a definite shift of thinking in the Church on political and social issues. The Temperance Movement had been instrumental in shaping this change.

The Temperance Movement, which had swept through Great Britain, Europe, and North America beginning in the middle 1800's, had had a great effect on the Brethren people. This crusade initially focused on voluntary, individual abstinence but soon shifted to political action to ban alcoholic beverages.

As early as 1842, Annual Meeting ruled that Brethren should not sign a "pledge" of total abstinence because this would "meddle with the proceeding and excitement of the world" on this subject. In 1867 the Church advised against members joining Temperance Societies.

In the 1880's and 1890's, there were requests to Annual Meeting to petition Congress for prohibition legislation. In 1900 Annual Meeting agreed that it was the "duty of the Christian church to mold temperance sentiment". After this the Church of the Brethren became actively involved in the campaign for prohibition, which eventually came about by a Constitutional Amendment in 1919.

We see the Church, at first, viewing temperance as a scriptural virtue to be taught and practiced by the Church. In the end, the Church saw temperance as a social issue to be dealt with politically.

This change in attitude was recognized by some Church leaders as it became evident that the nation was preparing for war again. In 1916, Otho Winger, President of Manchester College in Indiana, wrote of his concern over the probability of the establishment of military training camps in preparation for war. He felt that because the Brethren had become so greatly involved in politics there would be "no shadow of excuse or reason to be relieved" of entering military training camps.

The only provision that the government had made for conscientious objectors was noncombatant service. Some of the young Brethren could not conscientiously wear uniforms and other military items. A special conference was called at Goshen, Indiana to decide how to advise these young men. A statement was drafted which stated the wrongness of war, commended the Brethren who refused to participate, and urged the Brethren to refrain from enlisting and wearing a uniform.

Six months later, a pastor from a Church of the Brethren congregation in Washington, D.C. was called into the office of the Third Assistant Secretary of War. There he was read a document charging the officers of the Goshen Conference and the authors of the Goshen Statement as being guilty of treasonable intent of obstructing the operation of The Select Draft Law. It was indicated that the government was prepared to prosecute.

The Church responded by withdrawing the statement. It also issued a Bulletin of Information, which asked members not to circulate, or use, or display the Goshen Statement.

Looking at World War II, we note that even though the Church had labored to provide alternative forms of service (CPS Camps), 80% of Church of the Brethren young men chose to serve in the military. What does this say about becoming involved politically? What does it do to convictions of nonresistance?

What then is our witness as Christians? It is quite likely that in the future we will face issues of legislation that confront our beliefs. I would like to propose nine principles of a Christian witness regarding

our relationship to the government.

1. An attitude of submissiveness and respect towards whatever government we find ourselves under. Titus 3:1-2. We recall our earlier Brethren's willingness to be as cooperative as they could.

2. When concerns arise we will respectfully voice our concerns. If necessary, we will appeal for exemption from objectionable legislation. It is commendable to stay communicative with those in authority.

3. We will deal spiritually with the root of problems, which is sin, not politically with the symptoms by voting, running for office, protesting or lobbying.

4. We will avoid being swept into the emotion of the current issue by maintaining a faith that is not easily unsettled. Prov. 21:1.

5. We will avoid the snare of the unequal yoke by joining too closely with other groups or organizations that may have similar beliefs, but employ unacceptable tactics and methods. An example would be fundamentalist groups which may take a more militant approach, interpreting issues in the light of constitutional rights.

6. We will live our lives consistently separated from the world in all areas so the authorities can distinguish us, not only from the world, but also from lukewarm Christianity in general.

7. We will study rising issues before they become crises in our lives.

8. We will pray regularly and sincerely. I Tim. 2:2.

9. We will be willing to suffer. I Pet. 4:1, 12-14.

Many will see this position as accomplishing little in a positive way towards improving society around us. Many evangelicals today are almost suggesting we are not a good Christian if we do not become politically involved. Have we forgotten the implications of Christ's words when He said, "Ye are the salt of the earth"? Are we to believe that we become "salt" only after we participate in the political system? John Coblenz states, "The degeneracy in society has not come because men have become more wicked but because Christians have become more worldly." (Nonresistance-God's Plan For The Church, p. 69) When we blame the humanists and the new-agers for the moral deterioration around us, have we missed the truth? Is it really true as one writer suggests that we could solve America's moral ills in a single decade if every Christian would get politically involved?

The simple reality that we must reckon with is that when Christians attempt to deal with the ills of society through political channels, nonconformity will be swallowed up by the necessity of compromise. Nonconformity and compromise do not easily co-exist. Without nonconformity, nonresistance become resistance. Without

nonconformity the Church cannot avoid the corruption of political processes and strategies.

May it be abundantly clear to us that political involvement erodes our testimony against sin and obscures the cure for sin. While we appreciate a government which keeps evil in check, we have a calling which no government can ever fulfill. We preach a gospel that shows men how to be delivered from the power and practice of sin. Praise His Name! By this we become honorable citizens.

Brother Dennis St. John
21397 Co. Rd. B-50
Bryan, OH 43506

FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

I Cor. 13:13, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I suppose everyone who knows very much of the Bible, knows this verse. There is great emphasis placed upon love, as indeed there should be. Jesus, Paul, Peter and John all taught the greatness and the necessity of love in the heart of every Christian. Love for God, for our neighbor and for our enemies.

But we must never think that faith and hope are not very important to the child of God. We have, in the scriptures, other places where these three are used in close connection.

Gal. 5:5-6, "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." Gal. 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

I Thess. 1:3, "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;" I Thess. 5:8, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

I John 3:21-24, "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

So we remember the necessity, and greatness of love, but that

faith and hope are a vital and essential part of the Christian life.

It is my purpose, if the Lord wills, to write of each of these separately. Until then, we pray that God will bless you abundantly.

Brother William Carpenter

INTERCESSION

Intercessory Prayer

Continued from May 15, 1997 Issue

In part one we looked at Epaphras and the wonderful example that he provided for our profit. His was a beautiful illustration of intercessory prayer, "always labouring fervently for you in prayers." There is certainly no end to the outreach that we can have through intercession.

The place to start is as in the example left by Epaphras. There are many hurting people within our own little Church groups who are tormented by Satan and need our prayers. If you do not believe that, you are blinded and need to ask God to open your eyes. Not so you can gossip or slander, but so you can hold others up before God and beg for His mercy, His grace, and His healing.

Each one of us, to varying degrees, go through stages that may cause us to withdraw or even fall into sin. Our first and foremost desire should be to see our church family standing perfect and complete before God. If there are intercessory energies left, then go on to community, national, and world situations.

I stand in awe and amazement that God allows America to wallow in sin. Yet, God told Abraham that ten righteous people would keep his wrath from Sodom. Even though the numbers seem to be dwindling, America still has righteous people. America is sending a tremendous amount of physical aid, Christian aid, Bibles, missionaries, and so forth abroad. America still to some degree backs Israel, which in itself could stay His mighty wrath.

One thing is sure, America needs all the help she can get! If God's saints do not continue to stand in the gap, America will be judged. Woe unto us if that happens. You and I definitely have power in all of these areas. We should realize our obligation to participate through intercession.

Brother Roger Swihart
Quinter, KS

STAY PUT

"...Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned..." II Timothy 3:14.

An investigation of the word, "continue" yields much to think about.

We find that the word means: "to maintain, to retain, to endure, to keep going, or to abide in". Paul was telling Timothy to stay put, not to retreat or lose heart, but to stand firm in the things that Paul had taught him. He had also learned much from his mother and grandmother. He was a young man in an important position of leadership.

There is a trend in Church circles today to go after the "new" things. In Acts 17:21 it tells of the Greeks and their desire for new things: "For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing." Timothy was told to continue in what he had learned. He was to hold fast to that Good Word of God.

Those who are not grounded in the Word will not be satisfied with having to adhere to it, so they will go after the trendy things. God has provided us with everything that we need for faith and godliness. Our daily lives must be dedicated to conforming to His image.

I heard a Christian man, when a neighboring church was being criticized, say, "I have enough to do to keep my own house in order. I cannot nose into other people's business." We have enough to do to conform to the Word of God. We do not have time to chase down every fashion of modern Christianity which seeks to destroy traditional, Biblical ideas. Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." In I Thessalonians 5:21, we read, "...hold fast that which is good." In II Timothy 1:13, it is written, "Hold fast the form of sound words..." That Glorious Gospel, which we have learned, is all we need.

All the teaching of the modern dispensation, if it differs from the Gospel, will only cause confusion and division. Modern Evangelicals are teaching divorce, theistic evolution, the wearing of jewelry (including "Christian symbols"), ecumenism (mixing with other churches that do not teach the truth), and many other things. There are organizations that are trying to improve marriages, and they do good work, but they also sanction these evangelical teachings.

The Bible has the answers to all our problems. We need to teach and uphold it. If we are faithful, we need not chase all over the country for all these other things. They will pass away, as all other fashions of this world, but God's Word will never pass away.

Cling to the Bible, tho' all else be taken;
Lose not its promises precious and sure;
Souls that are sleeping its echoes awaken,
Drink from the fountain, so peaceful, so pure.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1937

ZEAL

W. C. Pease

Webster says zeal means ardor in pursuit of anything.

To the followers of Christ it means that, and even more when we think of righteous zeal.

A zealot is said to be one who is very zealous, or an enthusiast. However, an enthusiast is generally thought of as being one who is intensely interested in some game, or something outside of religion.

Jesus was zealous for God early in life. Read what happened as recorded in Luke 2. Jesus says in the 49th verse of that chapter, "How is it that ye sought Me? Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Again while in His ministry, "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh when no man can work." (Jno. 9:4.)

We find He was faithful until the end, and was tempted as we are yet without sin. Isaiah says, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief." (Isa. 53:3.)

Oh, when we study the life of Jesus, how it thrills our hearts and should cause us to have a greater zeal for God. Perhaps we are like Peter. He said, "Lord I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison and to death." (Luke 22:33.) Read in this chapter what Jesus told Peter, and how it came true. Jesus knew Peter needed this experience.

If we would have as much faith as Peter did later we would do God's will. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21.) Also read the next few verses.

There are many who are zealous in the work of the churches alright, but are they sure they are led by the Spirit of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom. 8:14)

We believe that the whole Bible is the inspired word of God. The New Testament the doctrine of Christ, given to Him by God. Jesus said, "He that loveth Me not, keepeth not my sayings: and the word ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." (Jno. 14:24.)

We know Paul, the apostle, was very zealous for the Lord. Read of his conversion in Acts 9. He said later, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man, for I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of

Jesus Christ." (Gal. 1:10-12.)

If all the leaders of the churches were just willing to preach Christ, and none of the things they are teaching and practicing they would not be placed in the position those were, who were buying and selling in the temple, when Jesus drove them out. He said, "it is written My house shall be called a house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Matt. 21:13.)

There are still those who are putting on wonderful programs in the church, with suppers and almost everything imaginable to raise money, but in that last day, He will say, "I never knew you." (See again Matt. 7:23.)

David said, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." (Psa. 69:9.) See also Jno. 2:17.

Some seem to think all they need to do is to say they believe in Jesus, and they will be saved. But if we believe we must be made to see that He has told us to do certain things as taught in his word.

Jesus said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:18-20.)

Therefore it is just as necessary for us to wash one another's feet as it was when Jesus said to His disciples, "If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." (John 13:14-15.) Then the 17th verse, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Let us ask ourselves this question: Are we building on the rock or on the sand? Oh, that more might be made to see that we must do what God's word says for us to do. No wonder Jesus said, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14.)

THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

In reading Jeremiah 18, verse 4 particularly stuck out. I was once privileged to watch a potter make a clay vessel. It was interesting and educational, especially when I realized that the Lord used this method to show Jeremiah, and us, that spiritually He is the potter, and we weak, human beings are the clay.

We are in His hand to shape, to mold, to smooth, to make beautiful, small, large, or as sturdy as He wishes. Whatever form He wants to fulfill the purpose for which He wants to use us, He can make it.

Clay is a very cheap product of little value. Man was made of clay. Statistics say that our bodies are worth ninety-eight cents in money. Clay when rightly mixed with water is formable. It can be shaped into many useful vessels, put in the oven and baked hard. Afterwards, it can be painted as desired and used for many activities. It can be used in whatever way the potter intended. The water represents the spirit of life that God gave us. Our life makes us alive and pliable so that we can be molded. Some clay can only profitably be molded once. When finished with it, the potter pitches it on the trash pile, and starts a new piece. However, another chunk of clay, somehow, he knew was a better quality of clay for much use. For some special reason, he would not discard it. He reshaped, smoothed and refinished it according to his plans. So our Heavenly Father does with us. When He sees us going wrong, or has a special purpose for our lives, He may take us in hand and remold us according to the experience we need in order to do His work.

For the Apostle Paul, He sent a voice and a light from Heaven that struck him blind. Moses encountered the Lord speaking from a green burning bush. Jonah took a long dive in the whales belly to the bottom of the ocean. Jacob had a wrestling match with an angel that rendered him crippled for life. John was caught up into Heaven and showed glorious things and the burning torments of the underworld to come. John Bunyan was kept away from an act of suicide when an angel came to show him Heaven and hell. He became a great Christian writer and wrote Pilgrim's Progress. These were a few of the great men of God who were salvaged and remolded.

We are living in what the Bible speaks of as the latter days, in the end of God's six day work week. He placed man here to live, work and serve Him on this earth and to prepare for Heaven. Instead, man has always liked to travel the easy way and serve Satan. Through trials and imperfections, through the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eye and the pride of life, many have sacrificed their souls. They will be discarded and thrown on the scrap pile to be punished with everlasting punishment. Matt. 25:46.

When the Lord takes us in hand and permits fiery trials to overtake us, very likely it is His plan to reshape and remake us into a valuable vessel. This vessel is to be used for Him to do His work in this vile world of sin. It may be the means of saving many souls for His Kingdom. The harvest truly is ripe, but the laborers are few, and I would dare say weak. The Apostle Paul turned the world upside down spiritually when he was turned around.

The fire of the potter that hardens the vessels resembles the trials which the God of Heaven uses to remold us. Let us not forsake Him

for He is doing it for our good, other people's good, and the saving of souls for eternity. Matt. 45:46. At times, Jeremiah stood alone. He was even smitten and cast into the miry dungeon. Our Saviour was mistreated and killed. His apostles suffered the same things, too. Eternal life is worth it all.

WAKE UP, WE KNOW NOT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
6159 Garrett Hwy.
Oakland, MD 21550-9231

"CAN YOU HOLD?"

Many of you have probably had an experience similar to the following:

Anita called long distance to an office and she heard a kind voice saying, "Good morning! Can you hold?"

Anita sat quietly while the music played. All the while she was thinking of how her telephone bill was adding up.

The receptionist came back on the line and Anita began talking. The receptionist said, "I'm sorry I can't help you. Will you return the call at 9:45 when Mr. Huddleston will be back in?"

Anita hanged up and returned the call at 9:45. Again she was asked, "Can you hold?"

The receptionist came back on the line, the music stopped, and she said, "Thank you for holding. May I help you?"

After being transferred to another extension the business was completed.

When we "call in" to our Heavenly Father, He never puts us on hold. There is no telephone bill to pay. We are never told to return the call at a later time. He is always there. He is always listening and we are never "put on hold."

Sister Mildred Skiles

OBITUARY

FLOSSIE O. BEEMAN

Sis. Flossie Olive (Broadwater) Beeman, 88, of Knapps Meadow, Lonaconing, Maryland, went home to Heaven on Saturday, February 22, 1997.

She personified a virtuous woman and "her price is far above rubies." "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

Born January 28, 1909, in Garrett County, she was the daughter of the late Harmon and Harriett C. (Bittinger) Broadwater. She also was

preceded in death by a son, Clyde Beeman; three sisters, Nellie Llewellyn, Minnie Broadwater and Dorothy Sutherland; and one grand-daughter, Donna James.

Sis. Beeman was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, "Broadwater Chapel", Savage River Road, for seventy-four years and served in various capacities.

Flossie and her husband also are the parents of the Country Gospel Singers, who ministered in the area for twenty-four years.

Surviving are her husband of seventy years, Oscar L. Beeman; three sons, The Rev. Homer Beeman and wife Freda, Westernport, Maryland, Robert Beeman and wife Sandra, Frostburg, Maryland, and Roger Beeman and wife Sandy, Springfield, Virginia; three daughters, Edna Clark and husband Glen, Lonaconing, Maryland, Louise Skidmore and husband Stanley, Frostburg, Maryland, Lavona Sines and husband Ronnie, Frostburg, Maryland; five brothers, Howard Broadwater, LaVale, Maryland, Grover Broadwater, LaVale, Maryland, Edward Broadwater, Corriganville, Maryland, Herbert Broadwater, Chester, Maryland, and Robert Broadwater, Lonaconing, Maryland; seven sisters, Della Beeman, LaVale, Maryland, Edith Long, Moran Manor Nursing Home, Theresa Broadwater, Westernport, Maryland, Myrtle Broadwater, York, Pennsylvania, Rosella Rounds, Grantsville, Maryland, Lillie Broadwater, Westernport, Maryland and Thelma Bittinger, Grantsville, Maryland; twenty-one grandchildren; thirty-five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Services were conducted at the Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church, Lonaconing, Maryland on Tuesday, February 25, with Bro. Virgil Leatherman and Bro. Ray Stuber officiating.

Interment was in Rest Lawn Memorial Garden, LaVale, Maryland.

Pallbearers were Robbie Clark, David Beeman, Danny Beeman, Bob Beeman, Jr., Nathan Beeman and Trent Beeman.

"MOTHER"

Our mother's gone on to Heaven,
To meet up with her son.
Knowing that in Heaven,
Their life has just begun.

She was a wonderful mother,
Wife, sister and friend.
And loved her heavenly father,
Persevering until the end.

She's gone on before us,
We're saddened and dismayed.
But we know without a doubt,
We'll meet her again someday.

Go rest high on that mountain,
Mom your work on earth is done.
Go to heaven a shouting,
Love for the Father and the Son.

-Sis. Lavona (Beeman) Sines

The family wants to thank everyone for their prayers, sympathy cards, food and the out pouring of love for Mom at our time of need. Also for the many cards, (get well, birthday, anniversary and so forth), telephone calls and visits during her two years of illness.

NEWS ITEMS

Ministerial List Change

The new address of Elder Mike Wray is R.5 Box 98, Peru, Indiana 46970. His new telephone number is 765-395-7023. Please make these changes in your February 1, 1997, issue.

Plevna, Indiana

The Plevna Congregation is happy to announce that we have added new members to our Church.

Around two years ago the Dean Flora family moved here from Colorado. The Steve Beachler family also arrived from Mississippi. Bonnie Kline from California also transferred her membership to the Plevna Church.

Another couple, Emmert and Mary Root were taken into membership on their former baptism, recently.

This Spring the Michael Wray family moved here from California. There have been five young people baptized during this time.

We are so glad for our new members and appreciate their help in the work of the Church.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Jacob C. Ness, Secretary
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Tom Jamison
R.2 Box 30
Hoxie, KS 67740
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marian Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
31111 Combs Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

JUNE 15, 1997

NO. 12

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MOMENT BY MOMENT

Dying with Jesus, by death reckoned mine;
Living with Jesus, a new life divine;
Looking to Jesus `till glory doth shine,
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am Thine.

Never a trial that He is not there,
Never a burden that He doth not bear,
Never a sorrow that He doth not share,
Moment by moment I'm under His care.

Never a heartache, and never a groan,
Never a teardrop and never a moan;
Never a danger but there on the throne,
Moment by moment He thinks of His own.

Never a weakness that He doth not feel,
Never a sickness that He cannot heal;
Moment by moment, in woe or in weal,
Jesus, my Saviour, abides with me still.

D. W. Whittle

THE LOST AND THE FOUND

Schools, stores and other public institutions maintain lost and found departments. There items that have been misplaced or forgotten are collected. Eventually the owner may remember where they left their possession so they can claim it. This lost and found department provides a worthwhile service for these people. It is always a relief when something that has been lost has finally been found.

In Luke 15, Jesus spoke of three things that had been lost. He used these parables to answer the concerns of the scribes and Pharisees. They were offended because He was willing to mingle with and help those whom they despised. To show His concern for lost souls, He told them of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. He wanted to convey the value of each person's soul.

Each of these lost items had value. The lost sheep represented one-one hundredth of the shepherd's flock. Each sheep had value as an individual animal not just as a possession. The lost coin was valuable to its owner. It represented one-tenth of her wealth. That coin could make a difference in her living. The lost son was even more valuable than the sheep or the coin. He was one half of his father's sons. He was created in the image of God, with a soul needing God's Holy Spirit.

The circumstances surrounding the lose of each of these valuables were different. However they were lost, Jesus was still interested in finding them.

The sheep was lost through ignorance. The sheep being largely unable to take care of itself needed to depend upon the shepherd to provide the necessities of life. The shepherd must find pasture that was nutritious. He must find still waters for the sheep to drink. They must have placid pools that would not draw them under or frighten them.

THE BIBLE MONITOR**JUNE 15, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

They needed protection from the wild animals which would devour them. The sheep were nearly defenseless left to their own ability.

The sheep was lost not because the shepherd had not done his work well. That sheep was lost because he wandered from the flock. He wanted to go just a little ways from the rest of the flock to find greener grass. He would not go far. However because he was ignorant of his own best interests, he soon wandered farther and farther away. Soon, he was separated from the flock by a great distance.

The coin was lost through neglect. The owner either dropped it and did not notice it was gone or laid it down and forgot where it was. The coin did not seek to be lost. However, because its owner was negligent it could not be found when it was needed.

The son was lost through rebellion. He wanted to get away from the strictness of his parent's home. He wanted to have his own friends. He wanted to have a good time. He wanted to do the things that he wanted to do. He did not want anybody to deny him the good times, he had longed for, for a long time. He took his inheritance, left home, and went into a far country, where he could do as he pleased. Sure enough, he did find fair-weather friends who were willing to help him waste his inheritance. Soon he found himself down-and-out in the midst of a famine, far from home. While he could be thankful that a man would allow him to feed his hogs, he began to long for the far happier scenes of his father's home.

Happily, all of the lost were eventually found. The lost sheep was found because of the persistent effort of the shepherd. He left the ninety-nine so he could find and bring back the lost one. He carried it back. Hopefully that sheep was no longer ignorant of the dangers lurking nearby nor of the shepherd's great care. The lost coin was found when the owner made a very diligent search. After looking everywhere, sweeping in dark corners and digging in neglected places, the coin was found. The lost son was found when he came to himself. When he began to consider what he had left behind, he realized he had rebelled against that which had been the best for him. He was found when he acted upon that impulse. He began the long journey home by taking the first step.

There was great rejoicing over the finding of each that was lost. The shepherd rejoiced over his lost sheep as he carried it back to the flock. The woman rejoiced with her neighbors as she recounted the finding of the lost coin. The father killed the fatted calf to celebrate the homecoming of his lost son.

Whether lost through ignorance, neglect, or rebellion, there is great rejoicing in Heaven whenever one of the lost is found. Whenever a lost one turns to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour there is great rejoicing in Heaven and in the Church.

MANKIND

We as children of God have a great responsibility to please God (Read Psalm 39.) Psalmist David wanted to please God by controlling his tongue when around the wicked. Then he realized he had gone too far, (verse 2) for he had even kept still when he should have spoken things that would have been for good. Then David called on the Lord, (verse 4) that the Lord would show him how frail he was in God's sight, and what the measure of his days were. I feel David realized the death of the wicked is the end of all joys: but for the Godly it was the end of all grief and the beginning of joy.

Too many times while we are young we think we have many days and years to live. We will seek pleasure and riches of this world, but do we really know? There is an old saying I have heard many times (the old must die, but the young may die). We hear of car wrecks and other accidents where even teenagers are snatched out of this life. So, we better be prepared to meet our Lord when He sees fit to take us from this stage of action. Matt. 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Psalm 8:3-5, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour." The Psalmist David after thinking of the greatness of God and his creation wonders why God is so mindful of man.

I gather from Genesis 1:26, also 2:6, that after creating the heavens and the earth, God needed a caretaker to care for the land and animals; but James 3:5-6 says, "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." God gave us our tongue to use for good. Not to tear down others or to tell dirty jokes. It was given to us to build each other up, and to be His disciples. God gave us a tongue that we might glorify Him and spread His gospel and lead others to the knowledge of Christ.

When we allow our tongue to get out of line, Satan is getting a hold of us.

Job 27:3-4, "All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils; My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit." Job in answer to his friends is saying as long as God gives him life, he was going to control his tongue and not allow his tongue to say

the wrong things.

Brother William E. Heisey

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Part One

As I consider the multitude of problems in society, perhaps none affect the family as dramatically as Divorce and Remarriage.

It would seem to us that much of society has lost the perspective God intended for married partners. Sadly, even sincere Christian people have increasingly accepted Divorce and Remarriage. As a result, this tragedy is perpetuated. Please consider this subject carefully and pray for God's will. As we discuss this issue, keep in mind a few questions.

#1 What was God's original design for marriage?

#2 Does God's will change based on the practice of man or because time has changed the environment for marriage, (as some may say)?

#3 Does God bless broken relationships?

As we look into God's word, we see that Marriage is a holy, God given relationship. We find that God, Himself, gave man this relationship called marriage. Gen. 2:24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." God's example in the garden was one unmarried man, and one unmarried woman. Man has been the one to change and challenge this example. In the New Testament we find Jesus re-enforcing God's original standard. In Matt. 19:4-6, Jesus quoted from Gen. 2 and said the same thing as His Father had said. Jesus went on to say in verse 6, "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." I find those words significant.

Jesus as the co-creator of all things, was making a profound statement, and stating a profound principle. Jesus said that God had "joined" people together. He also said that a man would cleave unto his wife. This word in the original means to glue, to adhere, to join. Notice, Jesus declared, "WHAT GOD hath JOINED together LET NOT MAN PUT ASUNDER." Jesus was declaring God's concept of how the Creator saw marriage. The significance of the words of Jesus can not be overstated! Not only had God "glued" together the marriage partners but commanded that this God ordained relationship was not to be broken. Let me ask you a question. Can man destroy or break what God has ordained?

It seems to us that marriage was created by and still is under God's authority. Regardless of what God has created or established I can think differently if I choose, but that does not change reality. Therefore, I come to the conclusion that man must not try to destroy this holy

relationship. Rom. 7:2 gives us insight and further evidence of God's authority in marriage. Paul writes that the woman who hath an husband is BOUND by the law to her husband. The word, "law" in the original has reference to the law of Moses. It also has reference to the law of the Gospel. The reference is not to man's governmental law, but God's moral law. Moreover, marriage partners are "bound" as long as their spouse is alive. This point is also supported in I Cor. 7:27, 39.

The word, "bound" in the original means: to bind, be in bonds, knit, to tie, to wind, in both, Rom. 7:2 and I Cor. 7:27,39, will be found the same root word. In Rev. 20:2, the same word is used to describe how Satan will be "bound" by the power of God, not man.

When we search out word meanings, it becomes increasingly clear that God has authority over the marriage bond. God was very specific in using the exact words that describe His will.

Few people want to end their marriages.

I believe if I say that my life will be led by the scriptures, then I can place my full trust in them. That trust is based upon God being the Author of the Holy Bible, the Creator of all things and the only sovereign Lord. I further believe that I must not thwart God's perfect will by modifying my position because of current societal preferences.

May God be praised! May His will be strengthened in our lives.

Brother Mark Cordrey

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

The Christian Faith verses Modern Technology

Modern technology affects all of our lives. The computer has become a household convenience and some people feel a necessity. As a result, the fabric of society has been changed. Machines do about everything from our banking to our income tax returns. They diagnose illnesses and forecast sales.

Of course, the space program has been instrumental in the development of this sophisticated system. Complex mathematical equations relating to gravitation, speed, movement and the planetary system have been important information to make the space flights safe and accurate.

The medical profession has become computerized. Scientists are now telling us that people will eventually be computerized with robotic capabilities. Certainly they have played a part in the new mechanical production of test tube and cloned babies. Genetic selection is now a great possibility. Through a combination of biology and bionics, the possibility of assembly-line people is an absolute possibility. Cloning, based on body cells containing all the information necessary to create the type of individual wanted is virtually here. Exact replicas of people can be achieved. In reality, man feels he is close to attaining a form of

immortality by the reproduction of himself in future generations.

The freezing of cells has been accomplished. It is thought possible to freeze embryos for long periods of time and to preserve human beings. Embryos have been successfully transplanted from one womb to another. Genetic control is not a prospect for a "Buck Rogers" future. It is a present possibility.

The only question, now, is the ethics. Who is to decide how many people and what kind should inhabit the future world? If we can create the perfect human being, who is to decide what "perfection" really is? What form of human life is desirable for future generations?

Two questions come to mind, when we think of this "progress." What is man becoming? What will become of man?

If we have machines to do our work, will they de-personalize us? Will they make us robots? Will we become servants of the technology we have created? Will a generation, taught and controlled by machines, find no need for traditional, Biblical standards?

In a recent poll of college students, at least seventy-five percent, said that they see their bodies as machines of sorts, not Divine creations, nor sacred. They see pleasure as the only good and proper goal of moral behavior.

Of course, if we are the "creators of life" it is well within our means to be the "takers of life." The current trend toward doing this through abortion and euthanasia is frightening. The world is standing breathlessly in the wings of modern technology, fearing who is going to complete the combinations that bring about total control.

Understanding these realities, what is our place and mission in this kind of world? What is our destiny? We must reach up to God and out to man with the truth of God's Word. The King on the throne in Heaven is still in control. He will answer the prayers that we have not even asked yet.

We must fully recognize that we are created beings. We need to realize our sinfulness. We must place limits on the aspirations that we have in the fields of science and technology. We need to "Seek first the Kingdom of God" and the by-product will be contentment and peace in our lives. **GOD CAN STILL TURN SINNERS INTO NEW CREATURES. HE IS NOT DEAD.** We CAN have a religious awakening among Christians that can reach out to others with the eternal truths of God's plan.

The Bible is a technological Book. It upholds a supernatural origin and the potential for a glorious future for man. There is a contrast between the personal interest God shows His children and the impersonalization of modern man who seeks to control himself through the medium of technology.

Jesus came that we might experience the more abundant life. This

abundance is not wealth, not status, nor carnal pleasure, but real LIFE. God desires that we live, not mechanically, not with an unnerved attitude, but free, happy and hopeful. This is the "normal" life. This is God's will and technology for man.

Brother Len Wertz

WHAT IS IN THINE HAND?

And the Lord said unto Moses, "What is that in thine hand?" See Exodus 4:2.

Often those who have been saved envision themselves having great adventures in far-away places. They read of others who have lived their lives in exotic and distant lands, preaching and teaching and encountering danger every day. While we do not intend to belittle the work of the missionary, we realize this life is not for everyone. If God calls you onto the mission field, by all means go.

For most of us spreading the gospel starts at home. God, in His wisdom, showed His strength to Moses by using something with which Moses was very familiar. The rod he used every day. He told Moses to throw it down. When he did, it turned into a serpent. Moses was never the same after this encounter. His life was changed.

In Ecclesiastes 9:10 we are told, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." Use your talents for the Lord. If you are a farmer, farm for the Lord. If you are a nurse, nurse for the Lord. Yes, it sounds simple, but deceptively so.

God expects us to do what we know, and to do it with all of our strength. It is not wrong to dream of the mission field, but God expects us to occupy ourselves (not just put in time) with the things at hand. He will not call a lazy person to service.

When the Bible speaks of "waiting on the Lord" it means in prayer and fasting. We are never to be totally unoccupied. The Lord will seek out the willing worker. He is not the one who is trying to earn his salvation, but one that does God's will from the heart.

In what are you talented? Use that talent for God, with all your might.

We will gather sheaves for Jesus,
In the morning bright and fair,
When the evil days approaching
Do not burden us with care;
In the noontide we will labor,
For our Savior and our King,
Going on our way rejoicing
While the day is on the wing.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

WHY WE REJECT THEISTIC EVOLUTION

Isaiah 40:25-26, "To whom will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he called them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth."

Although we have mentioned this subject several times in articles, we feel a need to address it in a more definite way. There are those who contend that theistic evolution is acceptable because it gives God credit for taking a part in creation. We believe there are at least four good reasons to reject theistic evolution.

First of all, theistic evolution denies the Word of God. Genesis chapter one plainly states, "And the evening and the morning were the first day,... second day,..." This leaves no room for thousands, much less millions, of years needed for theistic evolution.

Secondly, theistic evolution challenges The Creator God. Our opening verse asks the question, "To whom will ye liken me, or shall I be equal?" The verse speaks specifically about the creation of the heavenly bodies but the same could be said about all of God's creation. To say that God used evolution to bring about His purpose is to deny His greatness and His might. God could have created all of creation in just the snap of a finger, but He did it in six days to establish a week (along with resting on the seventh day) to be followed by mankind down through the centuries and reminding them of the Creator.

In the third place, theistic evolution is based on an unscientific theory. Time and time again evolutionary proofs have been proven to be either outright fakes or greatly exaggerated findings. Most great proofs are based on a single bone or even a fragment thereof. Even if a whole skeleton is found the outward appearance is added by the imagination of the one who gives the final result. The reason theistic evolution was proposed in the first place was to make the Word of God line up with the thinking of humanistic evolutionists. The Bible says that all of the animals were created within the six day period. Theistic evolution would argue that dinosaurs were created thousands of years previous to this. The Bible says that death came about because of the fall of man. Theistic evolutionists claim that there was death previous to this. So to compensate for what they consider error in the Creation account they substitute a theory that is full of scientific errors. The greatest of these is that life evolved from non-living matter. Here is where the idea of theistic evolution supposedly comes to the rescue. Books have been written to show many other scientific problems not answered by theistic evolution. Of course, it can always be argued that God can do anything. This is true. He will never tell us one thing in Holy Scripture

and do something in another way.

Last of all, theistic evolution usually leads to a liberal theology. When you question the first two chapters of Genesis you usually end up questioning much of the rest of Holy Scripture. Those who lean toward theistic evolution usually also doubt a literal resurrection of Jesus Christ. Many of them question the deity of our Lord.

It is true that it is possible to believe in a literal six day creation and still deny cardinal doctrines of Holy Scripture. Those who defend theistic evolution have a plurality of those who deny the infallible truths of Scripture while those who stand for a literal six day creation, with a seventh day of rest, have a plurality of those who would defend the truths of Scripture.

In the few remaining gatherings which still take such teachings as the prayer veil, feet washing and separation from the world in dress and amusements to be literal teachings to be practiced by the followers of Jesus Christ, we believe theistic evolution will cause these practices to also be questioned somewhere "down the line." Those who once practiced these commandments of Holy Scripture, who have now adopted theistic evolution, are losing them one by one. In many formerly plain churches the only thing left is feet washing and even this is often optional.

We would encourage our leaders within the Dunkard Brethren Church to take a strong stand against theistic evolution. We hope to hear sermons that include this subject. May our writers join in the battle. May God and His Holy Word be upheld. No matter if we believe it or not, all of God's Word will be shown to be Truth. "Not one (word) faileth." PRAISE THE LORD!

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 15, 1937

PLEASING GOD

L. W. Beery

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." (II Tim. 2:4.) The apostle leaves the impression in this reference that if we would please God we dare not be "entangled" with the affairs of this life. We understand from this that there are some things in this world from which he who would be acceptable to God must stand aloof. In fact there are many things which we cannot fellowship with nor partake of and maintain our integrity as Christian people before God and man. Certainly anything that is recognized as being evil or might result in evil

to ourselves or others should not be indulged in. We have one passage that instructs us even to "abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:22.)

We are living in a time when Christian people are being confronted with many "entanglements," some of which are desperately wicked and others which have very much the appearance of evil. Hence we should weigh these matters carefully in the light of the word of God and stay clear of anything that would bring reproach upon us as Christians or the church of the living God, which would be displeasing to our Maker.

You will notice the apostle tells us that the "affairs" of this life are not engaged in by he that warreth as a Christian soldier. To do so would bring upon him the displeasure of his great Commander. These affairs are evidently things pertaining to this world regarding the conduct and activities of the human family. Worldly wisdom, science, politics, civil authority and intellectualism do not benefit the good soldier of Jesus Christ; in fact such things only confuse, bewilder, disqualify and render him unfit for the service of Christ.

We hear much these days about economic security, social security, commodity control, international peace, federation, centralization, and many other things calculated to better the condition of the human family. It will be noted that the efforts put forth in these various ways result in much strife, contention and bitterness. The reason for it is this: these various goals or schemes of men represent human reasoning and are the result of the wisdom of men, and the apostle tells us "this wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." (James 3:15.)

There is a determined effort on foot to control the moral, social and spiritual activities of the human family with the power of control centered in "man." This is one of the gravest "affairs" that is confronting Christian people at the present time. The great majority of professing Christian people have become entangled in this movement and have surrendered to it bringing upon themselves reproach and causing the way of truth to be evil spoken of.

Christian people have a higher calling than anything this world has to offer and to turn aside from this to some fancied scheme of men, the product of some deluded mind, is but to become entangled in something that will lead him down to destruction. All who have accepted the Christ and His plan of salvation as given in the gospel have a definite obligation to fulfill. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:20.) How can we glorify God in our body and spirit? Simply by yielding our lives completely into his service. Such a life is well pleasing to God. When Jesus was here on earth He gave us an example of a life well pleasing to God and the Father bore testimony of this when He

spoke from heaven, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." (Matt. 17:5.) What was the secret of Jesus' life which won the Father's approval? Jesus' own words reveal this, "and He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please Him." (John 8:29.) If we desire the approval of the Father, then we should do likewise.

We have in the Holy Scriptures a standard of life set forth which is sufficient for the needs of the whole human family. If all men would but turn to God in faith believing and do those things which please Him these problems, these perplexities of humanity would disappear. Then indeed would we have universal peace, social security and economic security.

If the human family continues on in folly and sin it is hopelessly doomed. "Thus saith the Lord; cursed by the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." (Jer. 17:5.) "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

OBITUARY **LYDIA KINTNER**

Sis. Lydia Kintner was born June 21, 1909, in Peru, Indiana, to Jacob and Tena (Lorenz) Smith. Her father died when she was three years old leaving her mother to raise three children alone. As a young girl, Lydia attended a country school east of Plevna, Indiana, and then later in Greentown, Indiana. Because of poor eyesight, Lydia dropped out of high school.

Lydia accepted the Lord and was baptized at an early age in the Church of the Brethren. Later, she became a charter member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church where she was an active member until her death.

Lydia married Monroe Kintner March 31, 1929. She spent her time as a homemaker and mother. She and Monroe had a wonderful relationship that lasted sixty-three years. Monroe preceded her in death November 17, 1992.

Lydia was the mother of four children. Paul Edward, who died as a teenager, Ruthanna Lilly of LaFontaine, Indiana, Mildred Skiles of Cuba, New Mexico and Richard, who was still-born. She is survived by six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, a brother, Fred Smith, Wabash, Indiana, a step-sister, Maxine Kiser, Silver Lake, Indiana, and many friends and relatives.

Those of us who knew Lydia knew her as a person who had great concern for her family. She was a person who loved to travel and liked to see action. She was one who was not critical of others.

We also knew her to be a person who wanted to be at all church

functions. Beginning in 1950, her family attended as many General Conferences as possible.

In her later years, as her eyesight worsened and her hearing declined, she accepted these inconveniences gracefully and cooperated nicely with those who cared for her. As a part of her regular, daily prayers, Lydia asked the Lord that He continue to give her the right use of her mind — a prayer which He graciously answered.

Lydia died at 2:05 P.M., March 25, 1997, at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was eighty-seven years old.

Her passing leaves a void in our lives, an ache in our hearts, and tears in our eyes. But through those tears, we can smile and rejoice in the satisfaction of knowing that Lydia is in the presence of her loving Savior.

Funeral services were held March 29, 1997, at the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. Brother Lloyd Lorenz and Elder Robert Carpenter officiated the service and gave comforting thoughts and Scriptures. Songs sung were "My God and I", "Where We'll Never Grow Old", "Our God, He Is Alive", and "I'll Fly Away."

Burial was in Thraikill Cemetery where Elder Mike Wray had the graveside service.

The family thanks those who showed love and concern in so many ways.

GENTLE SPIRIT

Gentle Spirit,
Quiet grace,
Angelic smile
On her weathered face.

Shining witness
To those she knew,
Her faith in Christ
Remaining true.

Always welcome
At her door,
Happy memories
I'll keep in store

Her journey is over.
What sweet release,
In Jesus' arms,
What joyous peace!

by Martha Heer

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The telephone company has given Elder Mike Wray a new telephone number. The new number is: 765-473-6371.

The complete zip code for Torreon Navajo Mission is 87013-9701.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Lord willing, the Dallas Center Congregation is looking forward to a week's Revival Meeting, beginning on Sunday, August 10 through Sunday, August 17. Bro. Rudy Shaffer from Manheim, Pennsylvania will be our Evangelist. Evening Services will begin at 7:30. Our Lovefeast will be on Saturday, August 16, with all day services on Sunday, August 17. Please come and enjoy these services with us. Also pray for Bro. Rudy and all of us that our gathering together will bring Glory to God and salvation to lost souls.

We are glad to report that two more souls were received into our fellowship by baptism in April, Sis. Darla Keller and Bro. Joseph Hawbaker. We are rejoicing with them. May God bless and keep each one.

Sister Arlene Flora, Cor.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation enjoyed the presence of Elder and Sister Galen Litfin, of Newberg, Oregon on June 1, 1997. We were made happy to receive Bro. Walter C. Myers of San Diego, California into our fellowship on his prior baptism.

THANK YOU!

Greetings in Jesus' precious name! It was a wonderful and memorable experience for us to make a trip to Israel and Greece. We left the United States, April 14, made a stopover in Athens and arrived in Tel Aviv around 9:00 P.M. We were in Israel seven days which was during the Jewish Passover. It was a lovely time of the year with Spring flowers in full bloom. Many had come from different places for Passover which included a large group from Ethiopia. We returned to Athens and visited the old city of Corinth. A group picture was taken at the Bema (judgment seat) to which Paul was brought.

The Lord's timing was so evident through it all. The entire trip was made without mishap. We had been cautioned about sickness, pick-pockets and violence, but none of these things happened. We had an interesting walk after dark along the wall of the old city and inside where street clean-up was beginning and the people were putting away their wares. It was both thrilling and sobering to see many of

the places where events in the Bible took place.

Having both excellent tour hosts and an Israeli tour guide added so much to making it a good learning experience. Our tour guide passed out ear phones to us (twenty seven in our group) right away which was an excellent aid. We could always hear her no matter how big the crowds or how loud the interferences.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the unknown people who made this trip possible! Our vocabulary is limited when we try to express what it all meant to us. We also thank all who prayed for us during this time! May God richly bless each of you.

Brother David and Sister Mildred Skiles

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1997

July 6 - The Gift of Christ's Suffering - Hebrews 2:9-18.

1. How was Christ made a little lower than the angels?
2. By what means was Christ made perfect?

July 13 - Jesus Christ: The High Priest - Hebrews 3:1-11.

1. Explain how Jesus Christ and Moses are examples of faithfulness.
2. How is it possible to see the works of God and yet err in our heart and not know the ways of God?

July 20 - Partakers With Christ - Hebrews 3:12-19.

1. How can we believe and yet be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin?
2. Explain the importance of steadfastness in being "made partakers of Christ"?

July 27 - God Provides a Rest For His People - Hebrews 4:1-11.

1. What must we as hearers do to make the preached word profitable to us?
2. Why does it take "labour to enter into that rest"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1997

July 6 - Excuses - Gen. 3:12, Ex. 3:11, Matt. 25:24-25, Luke 14:15-20, Rom. 1:20.

1. Explain the difference between a reason and an excuse.
2. What part does fear play in excuse making?

July 13 - Hopes - Rom. 4:16-18, Rom. 8:24, Rom. 15:4, I Cor. 13:13, I Peter 3:15.

1. Explain the similarities of faith and hope. The differences.
2. What are the reasons of the hope that is in us?

July 20 - Ambitions - I Cor. 9:24, I Cor. 12:31, I Cor. 14:1-12, Phil. 3:13-14, II Tim. 2:15.

1. Explain why the way we run the race is just as important as winning the race.
2. Why is it so important to have natural and spiritual goals?

July 27 - The Sower of the Seed - Matt. 13:1-23.

1. How are our own experiences in this life like parables from which we must learn spiritual lessons?
2. What do we have, that the Disciples did not, which will help us discern the spiritual lessons in life's parables?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

JULY 1, 1997

NO. 13

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LOVE IS THE FOUNTAIN

Love is the fountain whence
All true obedience flows;
The Christian serves the God he loves,
And loves the God he knows.

He treads the heav'nly road,
And neither faints nor tires;
That gen'rous love which warms his breast
With fortitude inspires.

No burden seems so great,
No task so hard appears,
But this he cheerfully performs,
And that he meekly bears.

May love—that shining grace—
O'er all my pow'rs preside;
Direct my thoughts, suggest my words,
And ev'ry action guide!

-Isaac Watts

TOO BUSY!

We live in a very busy and frenzied world. Although we think we have little to do with the world, we have become caught up in this world's busyness. We, like the world around us, have become involved in occupations, trades and professions. Unfortunately, this busyness can have an impact on our Christian lives. This impact can become a challenge that either weakens or strengthens our Christian lives. We have not become members of God's family to be hermits. Christians must be Christians wherever they are. They must live the life of a child of God even in the midst of the world's busyness.

There is a certain amount of busyness that goes with life in general. Choosing a career and doing well in that field will bring much busyness. This busyness can become a trap. A person's focus can become centered on acquiring possessions, money or position. There is little time left for the other areas of life. We hear of this happening to executives of large corporations, but it is not limited to them. It happens also to people in other situations. Plumbers, electricians, painters, physicians, or even farmers can become so engrossed in their work and in acquiring its rewards that they lose sight of the other important areas of their lives. Many failed marriages and broken friendships can be traced to an unreasonable devotion to the pursuit of possessions, money and position. Wisdom is needed in balancing the efforts made in life. An effort needs to be invested in pursuing a career or profession, at the same time, there needs to be a moderation in that effort, so the other important areas of life are not ignored.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

JULY 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

If a person does not give his best to his occupation, he is not being a true child of God. God expects His children to give their best to their work. It would be dishonest to do any less. A Christian dare not be dishonest. The Christian owes a loyalty to his employer, it should not be his greatest loyalty, but nonetheless it should be of importance to him.

Work is important. A man who does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel. God has ordained that man should work. He has established weeks containing seven days. Six of these days are for pursuing an occupation or profession. The other day He has given as a day of rest and worship. He knew that men would grow weary and would need refreshment. Not only would his physical being need refreshment, but his spiritual being also. Therefore God has provided man with a day of worship, when both his body and soul can be revived and strengthened to face the challenges of another week. This is especially necessary for Christians today as they meet the greater personal challenge of working in the world's workplaces.

The conscientious Christian must allow time for the Spiritual affairs of his life. He must not allow business to compromise his day of rest and worship. He must do his Godly duty by supporting his family, not only materially, but also Spiritually. He must give time to his children. Even more importantly he must devote himself to his wife. He must be the Spiritual leader of his household. Not only must he lead, he also must have a time of Spiritual refreshment for himself. He especially needs a time of prayer and Bible study. Less formal than these times of devotion, he should have a time of meditation.

Too often the pressures of life drive each of us to keep as busy as humanly possible. We hardly have time to think. The enemy of our souls is pleased to have us this busy, for he does not want us to consider our ways and our relationships with others and with God. God has told us to consider our ways very carefully. He has given instructions to examine ourselves to see how we stand compared to the faith that has been delivered to us. This needs to be done more often than on Lovefeast occasions. It needs to be done very often. We need to see how we measure up.

Beyond this self-examination, we need to ponder about God: who He is and His attributes. We need to think about His Son, our Savior, and what He has done for us and what our response to Him should be. We need to consider the direction of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Are we letting Him lead us in God's will?

Our occupations and careers are important. Our labor as Christians is very necessary. However, we need to be considering

and pondering the deeper things of life and the God who has put us here.

What are you thinking about?

M.C.Cook

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths,
In feelings, not in figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart throbs.

He most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.

Life's but a means unto an end; that end

Beginning, mean, and end to all things-

God.

-Philip James Bailey

A REPORT FROM KENYA

The following letter was received by Brother Paul Stump from Kapenguria, Kenya.

June 3, 1997

Dear Bro. Paul,

I greet you in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you and other Brethren in America are all fine as we are here in the Lord.

I am very grateful to have this opportunity to communicate with you. It is now six months since you departed from us. I am therefore glad to remember you through this letter. How are you faring with your family? I believe you have been touched by Christ to go on with a Vision of spreading the Gospel in Africa. How is the climatical condition over there? What of Agricultural activities? Are you harvesting or planting? Above all, how is my sister, Mary Stump? I hope she is physically healthy and spiritually strong in the Lord. And how is the Dunkard Brethren Church in America? Is it expanding or not ... for the Bible tells me that a good tree has to bear fruits; Matthew 3:10.

Brother, I believe you can commemorate me clearly from the time you were here in Africa. I, Pastor Hosea Ambudo, God has fabulously cared for me and my wife Florence together with six children I was blessed with. All of us are under the blood and the peace of Jesus Christ. We have been blessed a lot, especially with your teachings. The doctrine of the Dunkard Brethren Church has really brought changes and a new look in our Christian life. The Church at the headquarters in which I am ministering is going on well

and I thank God because of its rapid growth. Expect to see a wonderful church when you come again to Kenya. Many people are supporting the teaching of our church, especially the baptism done by the Dunkard Brethren Church. It is a true baptism we have taught people here. And God has prepared and still prepares more souls that I expect you to baptize when you come next to Kenya. I just glorify our Father in Heaven for the light brought in Africa through you. I have been convinced by the contents of the polity book that we Africans had been in darkness and gone against the word of God. But now we are shining, for we have known the truth and the truth has set us free indeed.

Nevertheless, I am glad for the Lord has been kind enough to exalt me in a unique manner. I was made the Chairman of the outreach board and the Treasurer of the General Mission board in Kenya. Those are difficult tasks given to me and they require tremendous prayers. I am not shaken, for through the powers of God I will manage; however, we have tried our level best to move here and there preaching the Gospel, and God has blessed our efforts with three more churches in addition of the five churches we had before. Now, we have a total of eight churches in Kenya. The number of people receiving the teachings of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Kenya is increasing rapidly. Many people are positively desiring to join us. Now, should we go on opening more branches of the church or not? I ask this because I believe you understand that we are financially poor and for such a work to proceed efficiently, it requires enough funds.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. AMEN.

Yours in the Lord,
Pastor Hosea Ambundo

AND NOW ABIDETH HOPE

What is hope? The dictionary says, 1. Wish for something with some expectation. 2. To be confident, Trust. 3. Hope against hope. To persist in hoping for something against the odds. Rom. 4:18, "Who (Abraham) against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken. So shall thy seed be."

So Abraham had hope, against all the odds of a body an hundred years old, because God said it. And we can have hope against all hope, because Christ came to give us hope. He gave it to us when we were dead in trespasses and sins.

What a wonderful gift is hope.

Job said, 7:6, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope." Later he said, chapter 14:7-10, "For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?"

Job asks the question that comes to all of us. Chapter 14:14, "If a man die, shall he live again?..." And he answers, chapter 19:25-26, "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

The Psalmist says in chapter 16:8-10, "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." That he was speaking of Christ is confirmed in Acts 2:22-36. Because of this we can rest in hope.

Psalms 42:5, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." This is repeated, with slight variation in verse 11 and 43:5.

The wise man said in Prov. 14:32, "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death."

I would like to speak of the prophet Jeremiah. It was his lot to prophesy of the judgment against Judah. Because of his prophecies, he was called a traitor. He was imprisoned. He was cast into a pit. He also prophesied that Israel would be restored after seventy years of captivity.

He showed his hope, by buying the field of Hanamul, and putting the evidence in a safe place. Jer. 32:15, "For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land."

Please read Lam. 3:18-29, better yet read the whole book of Lamentations of Jeremiah (The weeping prophet). Especially take note of Lam. 3:26, "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord."

At least three times in the Book of Acts, Paul declared his hope before three different audiences, Acts 23:6, 24:15, 26:6-7. Again in his Epistle to the Romans in Rom. 4:18, 5:4-5, 8:20-25, 15:1-14, he

shows his hope.

To the Ephesian Gentiles he wrote of the time they were without hope, Eph. 2:12. He gave thanks for they who had believed, that they should know the hope of his calling. Please read Eph. 1:15-23.

From prison he wrote to the Philippians, chapter 1:20, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

Read and meditate on his words to the Colossians in chapter 1:21-29.

To the Thessalonians in chapter 5:8, "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

To Timothy in chapter 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope."

To Titus, chapter 1:1-2, "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." And in chapter 2:13, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

Read Heb. 6:10-20 for our hope surely is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.

Our hope has substance, because we have faith. We expect to receive the things we hope for, because he has promised. Heb. 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Peter also writes of hope in I Pet. 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Verse 13, "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Verse 21, "Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."

I Pet. 3:15, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

John, after assuring us that we are the sons of God, and that we shall be like him, and see him as he is, reminds us, I John 3:3, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is

pure."

That God may bless you abundantly, is the prayer of your unworthy servant.

Brother William Carpenter

WHAT DO I THINK HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE

When our Bible class teacher asked us to write on this subject I immediately recalled that the Bible says, "...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Are we treading on forbidden territory to try to do so?

It is quite a challenge, because I cannot do justice to the realities of Heaven. Christ said before He left this earth almost two thousand years ago, "I go to prepare a place for you...". He has been preparing for His redeemed a great Golden City where the light never ceases, for there is no night there. There is no need for sun or moon because our Saviour is the light of that city, where the twelve gates are of pearls. The streets of gold are so purified that it is clear as glass. The tiny bit of gold that proud people pay high prices for to adorn themselves will be as nothing compared to the streets we will walk on in Heaven. The twelve great gates of that great city, New Jerusalem, will never be closed. Each gate will be each one great pearl. Our birthstone may be one of the gates.

We will no longer have our carnal bodies, for they will have been changed into spiritual bodies. Therefore we will never suffer pain or even a common cold. Neither sickness nor death shall take away our family or loved ones. We will live on and on through the millenniums of time and never grow old. We will be with Yahshua, who died to set us free from the bondage of sin and death. Satan and his imps are forever barred from Yahweh's place in the Glory world.

We will have no need of money, that people so covet after on earth, because our needs will all be supplied free, The River of Life, clear and clean as crystal, will never go dry nor overflow Heaven. The Tree of Life will be growing on both sides of the River of Life and will produce a different fresh fruit each month of the year. This delicious fruit will never need spraying with poisonous sprays, nor any such thing because the bad insects will not be in Heaven.

I believe everyone will be living as one great godly family, thoughtful and kind to one another. I also believe we will know each other and also be known of them.

I do not think that we will be idle, but every person will have work to do. We will have our assignments as to what it will be. Might some of

us be guardian angels sent to some far distant planet to help and watch over someone to guide him on his way heavenward? This would be just as we have been guided through this world by the silent soft words of comfort and direction that helped us so much on our way to glory.

I believe we will be blessed with many things that will make us happy. These are things that the Bible does not mention being in this Golden City and its surroundings. I believe our eyes have never seen such a beautiful landscape of lakes, trees and, yes, flowers, too. They will be of kinds we have never seen on earth, growing in colors, size, beauty and scent that we have never experienced on earth.

I believe we have some things on earth that we will not have in heaven—cars, airplanes, trains and ships. We will not have oceans to cross. In our glorified bodies we will have our own transportation, perhaps in the twinkling of an eye. We will not have evil in any form to contend with.

A question I have been asked different times when someone loses a cherished pet, "Do you think there will be animals and birds in Heaven?" I do not think our Saviour overlooked anything that will give us good, satisfying pleasure in Heaven. I believe there will be animals and birds there. Perhaps our favorite pets will be right there to welcome us. Who knows? Even the animal kingdom will be at peace in Heaven. Children and vicious earth animals will joyfully play together.

We work so hard to have a few tarnished things in this world, when our Saviour has provided so much more in perfection for eternity without the pains and trials that Satan puts us through in our present world. Let us keep His commandments and plan to meet each other in that glorious home. We cannot imagine in our earthly minds how beautiful and glorious Heaven must be,

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
6159 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1937

LIFE, LIGHT, LIBERTY

Ida M. Helm

Part One

"In the beginning was the word, and the word, was with God, and the word was God... In Him was life; and the life was the light of men."
(St. John 1:1,4.)

In the beginning the Spirit hovered over the mass of chaos and darkness, the waste of waters. "And God said, let there be light: and there was light." (Gen. 1:3.) The world was created by Him and every thing that is therein. Everything that God made was good, but through Satan sin came into the world and with it came thorns and thistles and fetters of sin, and death and sorrow and pain, and today the world is in darkness, blinded and fettered with sin.

In the last days of the old degenerate world in which St. Paul lived and looked around on the things which he saw, and guided by the Spirit he wrote, "Even as they did not like to retain God in their (moral) knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, deceit, malignity, whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (Rom. 1:28-32.)

Man, created by God and in the image of God, instinctively knew God, but there were things that appealed to them and they put before God, and they did not like to think about God and do His will, and finally God gave them over to the devices of their own wicked hearts and minds, and they came to a dreadful state of moral and spiritual depravity, darkness and deadness.

The Light continued to shine amidst the dreadful darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not. They had placed a bushel over the Light of the World.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalms 109:105.) The light that reveals our sins is the light that delivers us from it, and imparts new life and light. Jesus says to His children, "Ye are the light of the world." God's children have in Jesus and His word the cure for the blindness and darkness in which this old earth is groping today. They have in Jesus and His word the solution to the tangle and problems that are puzzling the whole world today.

God's children are to be filled with the Spirit and live the Christ life every day that they may reflect to others, Jesus, the lifegiver, the Light of the World.

The prophet Isaiah recognized the need of every person for the illuminating, uplifting power of God. He wrote, "The smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth." (Isaiah 41:3.)

There is something in every man and woman corresponding to this

dim flame that needs to be fostered and touched by the tongues of the fire of the Spirit of God in order to blaze up and burn brightly and shine in the corner of the world in which God has placed them. A constant supply of the oil of the Spirit is needed to keep the light shining continually. The Christian church is being weakened and robbed of her light and power by the religions of the world who are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men and rejecting the doctrine brought from heaven by God's Son. They are hiding the Light of God.

We are living in a peculiar time today, in the noonday of Christianity, with Bibles on every hand, in the home, the library, in public rooms wherever man and women go. Bibles are printed for free distribution that may be had for the asking. People may read and study the Bible from morning until night and from night until morning if they will, yet it is a time of gross darkness and ignorance of the things of God. The world is blinded and fettered by sin. The darkness that hides the truth robs a man of his real freedom.

How large a part of the uncharitableness of men toward their fellow being is due to want of light? It may be that darkness is the worst kind of bondage. The light of truth as it is in Jesus will light the individual life. Jesus, God's Son, is the life-giver, the deliverer from sin, the conqueror of Satan. If the Son make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Social life today is rushing madly after the lure of the false lights of the world with its lodges, games, fun and frolic, dancing and gay entertainment, its amusements, movies and joy rides. Boys and alas, girls that were once pure as the morning dew are being contaminated by wine and cigarettes and their attending vices. The Christless world of education is in intellectual darkness.

Many a God-fearing boy and girl left a Christian home with its altar and regular church worship on Sunday, and entered college where all or a part of the Bible is cut out, and come home no longer whole hearted, devout worshippers of God, but half-hearted Christians or perhaps avowed infidels.

The minds of many, many men and women are being blinded by following fake shepherds who reject most of the teachings of Jesus, instead of studying the Bible for themselves. If the blind lead the blind both will fall into the ditch.

Baptism, feet washing, the Lord's supper, the salutation of the holy kiss, plain dressing, the simple life are relegated to the rear or to the dump heap. Bazaars, church suppers, entertainment are taking their place, and people are kneeling at the goddess of fashion. Some will

with one hand grasp the garb of the world and with the other reach out to receive the sacred emblems of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Politics is reeking with corruption, with its cunning and craftiness and distrust and ambition and greed and grasping after power and fame till they have almost forgotten about God. The large majority of the rulers of the world ignore God and some have dared to defy Him.

The effect of many forms of sin is wrecking the life, curbing the usefulness and shortening the life of the transgressor. The primrose path is deceitful and reeking with poison. If a man drive his automobile unscrupulously to the utmost of its capacity something is bound to happen speedily. The capacity of vice which at first may seem to yield enjoyment will in the end bring loathing and remorse and death. The deeds we do go to strengthen habits from which they spring, they go to form us into a character for good or evil. If we follow the evil it will bind us in fetters and a slavery from which we can not escape, always becoming more degrading and the fetters more tightly bound.

The blinded and fettered one cannot see nor feel his way out, nor break through the tangles of sin. Jesus the Deliverer, the Light of the World shines for every one. He says it is the sick that need the physician. He came to call sinners to repentance. When He was living in this world among men the miracles He performed of opening blind eyes, unloosing tied tongues, unstrapping deaf ears, imparting health to every form of disease, casting out demons, is a sign of the greater miracle that delivers men from the darkness and fetters of sin and given light and life and liberty.

HOME

Our recent 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration has brought to mind valuable things. The program and the words that were spoken made an impression.

The family and the home were organized from the beginning. It's so unique that the Church of Jesus Christ was patterned after it. No church or nation can be secure without secure homes. Ephesians 5:21-25 and Colossians 3:18-19 gives a clear and brief outline for a Christian home and marriage to last for a lifetime.

First is mentioned: submit yourselves one to another. Next: wives submit yourselves to your own husbands. Last: husbands love your wives.

Wives belong to their own husbands and not another man in all things. Wives have the right to expect their husbands' love, financial

support, physical protection and most of all true and wise Christian leadership. The husband is to be the leader in all things. That is a tremendous responsibility. That includes being a peacemaker as well as promoting all Christian standards.

What is responsibility? God has never given responsibility to anyone who can not be successful. There is an answer. If the husband is a true believer in close contact with God, that will bring about God's will to be done.

There will be crosses to bear. There can be no victory without a battle on the part of both husband and wife. Let us look at ourselves. We are often guilty of the same things we accuse our companions of. These things must be corrected in the husband's life before he can be a good example and a successful leader. Remember the wife is the weaker vessel and must be loved and tolerated as such.

Wives honor, respect and encourage your husbands and never say "I told you so." Behind every successful man there is a good woman.

Thanks to all who have sent cards and letters for our 50th Anniversary. Thanks to all who have prayed for us over these many years.

Love
Homer Mellott

OBITUARY

ELLIS ARMSTRONG

Bro. Ellis John Armstrong passed away on February 20, 1997, following a year long illness. He was born on April 17, 1922, to William Earl and Catherine (Sinclair) Armstrong in Gladwin County Michigan.

At the age of eighteen, he accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized into the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, where he served as a deacon for many years. On his nineteenth birthday, April 17, 1941, he married Alberta L. Eby and she survives. Also surviving are his daughters, Nancy (Gary) Rathburn of Wauseon, Ohio and Lola (Joe) Flory of West Unity, Ohio; three granddaughters, Kate, Karen and Kristy Flory of West Unity, Ohio and one sister, Nina Lechner of Gladwin, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother William E. Armstrong and two sisters, Alta Lindenberg and Mary Helen Armstrong.

Ellis was a farmer all his life. He also worked at the Fulton Manufacturing Company in Wauseon for twenty-five years, retiring in 1984. Since then, he spent his time with his family, happy to help

wherever he was needed, to fix a lawn mower, get a car started, feed calves, haul stone, or even bake cookies. He was always busy. He also enjoyed traveling. He and Alberta took several trips around the country to go to church conferences and to visit friends. His greatest desire in life was to know his entire family had accepted Jesus as their Savior and know he would see them all again.

Funeral services were held at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church on Saturday, February 22, 1997. Elder Edward Johnson and ministers Tom St. John and Fred Johnson officiated at the services.

The family would like to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, telephone calls, cards and letters during Ellis' illness and following his death. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

GOD'S GARDEN MUST BE BEAUTIFUL

God looked around the garden,
and found an empty space.
He looked down upon the earth,
and saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you,
and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
for he only takes the best.
He knew that you were weary,
and he knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never,
be well on earth again.
He saw the roads were getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids,
and whispered peace be thine.

NEWS ITEMS

PUBLICATION BOARD REORGANIZATION

Effective immediately, all contributions for the Publication Board should be sent to the new Secretary, Bro. Mike Wray, R.5 Box 98, Peru, IN 46970.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Revival Meetings at Englewood will begin July 11 and end July 20. If the Lord wills, Brother Ray Stuber will be refreshing our hearts and minds with God's Word. Services start at 7:45 P.M. weeknights and at 6:00 P.M. Sunday evenings. Everyone welcome!

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings this summer.

Bro. Wayne Burgess, from McClave, Colorado plans to be with us, Lord willing from July 25 through August 3.

We invite all to pray, come and be blessed and drawn closer to our Precious Saviour.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Updated directions to the Ridge, West Virginia Dunkard Brethren Church.

From Interstate 68, which transverses east and west through western Maryland, proceed to Cumberland, Maryland. Take Route 220 South through Keyser, West Virginia to US 50. (You will need to take a left turn to continue following Route 220.) Turn East (left) on US 50 and proceed to Ridgeville. Turn right (south) onto Knobley Road.

Follow Knobley Road 7.8 miles (the Antioch Church of God will be on your right). Turn left onto Harness Run Road (which is unpaved). Keep to the right at the "Y", and proceed 1.5 miles to the Ridge church house on the left.

Coming from east or west on US 50, turn south onto Knobley Road at Ridgeville, and follow the above directions (from Knobley Road to the church).

THANK YOU

We want to express a sincere thank you to each one who sent a card and/or a letter for our Silver Wedding Anniversary. It was special to receive cards from those so many miles away. We want you to know you helped make our 25th an occasion we will always remember.

Brother Maury and Sister Ruth Ann Wells

LOST AND FOUND

Following General Conference, the following items were found in the meeting area. A small child's white sweater and a small child's pink, light jacket. These items may be obtained by contacting the Editor at 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223-1949; 909-845-

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397- County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Mike Wray, Secretary
R. 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H. 108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Ray Stuber
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, PA 17356

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Paul Nell
Woodland Drive
R6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, PA 17403
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
R. 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasurer, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

JULY 15, 1997

NO. 14

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HOLY BIBLE, BOOK DIVINE

Holy Bible, Book Divine,
Precious treasure thou art mine;
Mine, to tell me whence I came;
Mine, to teach me what I am.
Mine, to chide me when I rove;
Mine, to show a Saviour's love;
Mine art thou, to guide my feet;
Mine to judge, condemn, acquit.

Mine, to comfort in distress,
If the Holy Spirit bless;
Mine, to show by living faith
Man can triumph over death,
Mine, to tell of joys to come,
Light and life beyond the tomb;
Holy Bible, Book Divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine.

-John Burton, Sr.

DIET AND EXERCISE

Recent reports have indicated that many are overweight and out of shape. A casual observation would tend to confirm this conclusion. Many obviously are carrying extra pounds. They lack endurance not only because of this extra weight, but also because they are not in good physical condition.

The Apostle Paul wrote Timothy that physical exercise did not profit. The Grace of God is not meted out according to physical condition, no matter whether a person is fat, skinny, flabby or in shape. Spiritual blessings from God are not based upon physical condition. He is interested in the heart of man not primarily his body. A person who is grossly overweight can be a Christian as well as the slim, svelte good-looking physical specimen.

Today, there are many who overemphasize the development of the body. They exercise with weights, put themselves through many torturous workouts that they might have a superbly shaped body. Often they display this well-shaped body with a great deal of pride in immodest attire. These people forget that God gave them a wonderfully made body and good health so they could enjoy well-being. Their good condition may become a pitfall rather than a benefit.

Being in poor physical condition is not a positive, Christian virtue. There is no virtue in ignoring the proper care of the tabernacle the Lord has given each of us. Without going to extremes in pursuing physical culture, it is well to care for the human body.

We realize our ancestors gave little attention to their bodies' conditioning. Most in that long-ago time were required to do much strenuous physical labor. They could consume a poor diet, shirk an

THE BIBLE MONITOR**JULY 15, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

exercise program, but still remain in a condition that allowed them to work day after day throughout lives of toil and sorrow. In our day of relative softness, we must be more careful of our diet and exercise. If we fail to provide for our body's well-being we will bring disease and affliction upon our bodies that serve as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

It is obvious that we dare not contaminate that holy place with the world's destructive habits. Smoking, drinking, illicit affairs and other habits, popular in the world today, have no part in the temple of God's Holy Spirit. That body has been purchased with a high price, God's Own Son, Jesus Christ. It should be viewed as the sacred precinct of God.

The cure for the human body that is out of shape is a regimen of diet and exercise. Many make the mistake of punishing the body with one quick fix diet after another. The body needs some exercise to accompany a more moderate intake of food. It is not just the amount of food but the type of food that is consumed. A small amount of unhealthy food is more dangerous than an overabundant amount of healthy food. Fats and sugars need to be regulated. The proteins, carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, trace elements and other essentials need to be eaten daily to have a healthy body. Moderate exercise needs to be done three times a week. If a workable routine of healthy eating and healthy exercise is established, the body will benefit.

There is a very evident parallel between the needs of the physical body and the Spiritual body. Our Spiritual lives are more important than our physical bodies. It is the Spirit that is going to dwell eternally with God after these physical bodies have decayed in the grave. That Spirit will be clothed in a recognizable, resurrected body.

The Spiritual life needs a good diet. That diet would consist of the Word of God, through preaching, Bible Study, meditation and communication with God. There is a need for Christian fellowship as an aid in worship and in the study of the Word. There needs to be a workmanlike desire to know and to rightly handle the Word of God.

However the Christian needs not only to know what he believes and why he believes it. He also needs to exercise his faith. A faith that is not exercised is dead. Physical exercises that are planned but never done will not do the body any good. The Christian faith must be lived to be alive. Exercise often involves opposition. In order to strengthen a muscle, it must be challenged. For a Christian to be strengthened, he must be challenged. He must be able to apply his knowledge of the Word and the practices of the Church to the situations that arise, day after day.

I do not know what your physical body needs, but I do know that everyone needs Spiritual diet and exercise. Are you taking as good

care of your Spiritual body as you are your physical body?
M.C.Cook

TO THE CHURCHES AND THOSE INTERESTED IN THE AFRICAN MISSION WORK:

June 25, 1997

"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." Brother and Sister Verling Wolfe plan to accompany Brother and Sister Paul Stump to Africa in the late Fall to prepare the way for missionaries from the Dunkard Brethren Church (USA) to work with the African people and nurture the believers there. Brother and Sister Timothy Scofield with their two sons, Brother William and Brother Matthew, are preparing to follow them by the first of January, and will expect to serve for at least a year. Another family may replace Brother and Sister Wolfe by the first of February. Tentative plans are to locate in Kapenguria, Kenya and reach out to Uganda from there.

The Orphan Sponsorship Program will be placed on hold at the end of the second term (August 31) until the Brethren are able to evaluate the project further.

Communication and verification have been problems the last few months.

We appeal to you for your continued prayerful support for the work in Africa, and especially for those who will be Ambassadors for Christ in Kenya and Uganda. If you have sent orphan support for more than six months in 1997 and want your overpayment refunded, just let us know; otherwise it will be used as needed.

The Dunkard Brethren African Mission Board
Brother Ray Reed, Secretary
302 Percival
Dallas Center, IA 50063-1014

AND NOW ABIDETH CHARITY

In writing this article we will use the word, "love." We believe that "charity" designates a special kind of love. In some cases we may use the word "love" in a different sense, but mostly this is the "love" of which we write.

We discovered also that this is too large a subject for one article so we are dividing it into three headings, namely, The Love of God for Us, Our Love for God, and Our Love for One Another.

THE LOVE OF GOD FOR US

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,

And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.

When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hill and mountains call;
God's love, so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels' song.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill,
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Tho' stretched from sky to sky.

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints and angels song.

That God loved the man and woman, whom He had created is evident since after they had sinned, He pronounced judgment upon them, but He also gave them hope of a redeemer. When wickedness became so great and He despaired of all men, he found a way to deliver some through Noah, who found grace in His sight.

After wickedness again became great, God called Abraham, and gave him great and precious promises concerning his seed.

Deut. 4:37, "And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt."

Deut. 7:7-8, "The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of

Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

He turned the curse of Balaam into a blessing because he loved them. Deut. 23:5.

Please read Isa. 43:1-7.

Jer. 31:3, “The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

In John 3:16 Jesus tells us how much God loves us. He loved us so much that He gave His Only Begotten Son. He told of the purpose of that gift, that we might not perish, but that we might have everlasting life.

He loved us unto the end. John 13:1, “Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”

John 15:9-10, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”

John 16:27, “For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.”

Please read Rom. 5:5-8. Note especially verse 8, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Meditate for a while on Rom. 8:35-39.

How can we not love and serve God in return for His great love for us? II Cor. 5:14-15, “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

Gal. 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Eph. 2:4-7 tells us of the mercy He bestows upon us because of His great love for us, while we were still sinners. That He made us alive in Christ to sit together in Heavenly places, and will continue to show his love, mercy and grace through the ages to come.

Please read II Thess. 2:15-17.

Please read and compare Prov. 3:11-12, Heb. 12:5-11 and Rev. 3:19 and remember that even chastenings are a proof of His love for us.

Meditate on I John 4:9-21.

Jude 20-21, “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most

holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

That you may keep yourself in the love of God, is the prayer of your unworthy servant.

Brother William Carpenter

HATH GOD SAID?

Genesis 3:1, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

The servants of God should daily affirm that the Word of God is one-hundred per-cent true. The last thing we need is to hear the Words of Our Lord disparaged over the pulpit or in the Bible Study. "Did God really say that?" or, "Does God really mean that?" These statements cast doubt upon the truthfulness and sincerity of Our Lord, just as that old devil did back in the Garden.

"Hath God said?" Today many so-called preachers put holy living, separation from the world, and even the landmark teachings such as baptism and footwashing into another time and place. "That was for back then. Today we are more enlightened." Just look at what today's enlightenment has gotten us: sixty to one-hundred per-cent divorce rates, late term abortions, high juvenile crime rates, crack cocaine, heroine, AIDS in epidemic proportions, and total moral erosion. So much for modern-day enlightenment.

In our scripture lesson we must understand that ADAM and EVE walked with God. They spent time in His very presence. Yet, Eve was made to doubt God through clever manipulation. In Matthew 28:17 we read, "And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted." These people were in the VERY PRESENCE of Jesus Christ, yet some of them were doubtful. We might say, "If we could see Him and walk with Him and speak with Him we would never doubt!" Thomas did. He walked with Jesus for three and a half years, and he doubted. How much easier is it today to be led astray by the perverse thinking of this world.

Yet the scriptures are plain: (John 14:16-17) "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." In I Peter 1:22 it says, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit,..." (the same Spirit of Truth spoken of by Jesus Christ in John 14). We have not been left alone, if that Comforter abides in us. Have you invited Him to abide in your heart? In Luke 11:13 we read, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children:

how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

We need not listen to the drum-beat of the world which asks "Hath God said?" We can trust in God that what He says is true. This is my prayer for the church today.

May young and old thy word receive,
Dead sinners hear thy voice and live;
The wounded conscience healing find,
And joy refresh each drooping mind.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073-9162

THAT MAN JOB

First of all he was a godly man. He was wise. He was prudent. He was rich. He was knowledgeable. He was thoughtful and kind. He was prayerful. He was concerned. He was diligent and a man of pity. In all of these, he was firm to do what was right. The fact that he sat in the gate of his city would signify or verify that he was a ruler or king. It also signified that he had given of his wealth to the needy of the land. He lived to be old. After his tribulation period, he lived one hundred forty more years. Job 42:16-17.

Scholars, through the centuries, have tried to find out who Job was? Where did he live in the land of Uz? Also, they have tried to find out who the author was. Who wrote the book of Job? In Bible study books, Job is listed under the poetical books of the Bible. It tells the story of his troubles, afflictions with disease, the destruction of his family, the overthrow of his prosperity, the discouragement of his friends, who misjudged him, and to be ill-advised by his wife, his life companion, who should have encouraged him. Eventually his recovery and God's blessings became a reality because he was found true and faithful to his Creator to the end.

In the days following the Flood the world was uninhabited for a long time. A man could take his family and go to the spot that pleased him. There they could start their own little kingdom. This may have happened to Job's family. In Gen. 10:22-23 is listed the line from Noah, through Shem and Aram to his great-grandson Uz. He may have begun the land of Uz. Later the leadership of their little kingdom had fallen onto Job. The land of Uz, today, is thought to have been somewhere east of the Sea of Galilee or in the Far East. To me this seems to be the most likely posterity and place of his origin. He was acquainted with His God, offered sacrifice for his children, was a descendent of Shem, the only godly son of Noah. However his name is not recorded in Luke 10 as an ancestor of Arphaxad the brother of

Aram the father of Uz. Job's age would also correspond with the ages of people who lived in this period of history.

Now for the author of Job: I cannot see how any person could have gone through the trials of Job, knew his feelings, his prayers, his misery, mental and physical, except Job and the Lord. I believe Job was a pious man who did not want the praise of man. Under those circumstances, he wrote with the desire to be an anonymous writer. Maybe the reader has a better suggestion.

One thing I know is when it seems that all that lies ahead looks dreary, dark or painful that the reading of Job can give one renewed energy in life's inlook, outlook, and uplook through our Creator. The steadfastness of the life of Job can influence our future life. In sadness, depression, disappointment, sickness, war, or being forsaken by loved ones or whatever makes one feel almost like giving up, open your Bible, the book of all books of wisdom, to the book of Job. Read of the hardships, slanderous friends, pain, loss of loved ones, loss of wealth and even the Lord seemed to be hidden and did not answer his prayers, (Read Job 9:10, 23:8-17.) He did not give up, but kept on holding onto his Lord's promises knowing that sooner or later his prayers would be answered in God's own way.

Oh for the faith of Job! In the end the story turned out so beautifully when Job's family was all restored, his prestige was restored, he prayed for his friends and they were restored, and I believe his place in government was restored in the land of Uz. A feast was made for all his family and friends with Job as the prestigious center of fellowship.

A minister who had many troubles in his life, death, desertion, sickness and disappointment, told me one time that he had read the book of Job sixteen times. I do not know how many times I have read it myself. I do know when everything looks dark and dreary that is when I get out the book of Job. I go through the trials of Job. I partially experience his troubles, his perseverance, his faith, his holding fast to his faith and the wonderfully, blessed ending. It seems a new life has been laid out before me and a new dawn is about ready to burst into a new day of blessings.

I hope these few paragraphs will help the reader in times of trial, disappointment, heartache, sickness, or whatever the trial may be. Forget the author but do not forget the message. Job has been inspiring people like you and me for hundreds and thousands of years. The Creator who helped and blessed him can also help and bless us, if not in this world then in the next. That will be best of all.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
6159 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550

DON'T DESPAIR

When you're feeling so discouraged
By the storms that come your way,
And it seems you're always failing
Every moment of the day.
Don't despair but lean on Jesus
You will hear Him gently say
"Child I understand your weakness
I will be your guide and stay."

Then in faith pursue your journey
Holding tightly to God's hand
Trusting Him though shadows gather
And you feel the sinking sand.
For He has promised to go with you
He will help you to understand
All the pressures, toils and trials
Till you reach fair Canaan's land
Submitted by Sister Ruth Snyder
Handprinted on a card from a friend.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1937

LIFE, LIGHT, LIBERTY

Ida M. Helm

Part Two

As there were false prophets in Israel, so there are false teachers in the world today, darkening the world around them. Wherever the true message from God went out among the people, there went out false messages from false prophets who used God's name to sanction messages that were the product of their own heart and mind. Error and great spiritual darkness marked such times.

Hear Ezekiel's words, "Thus saith the Lord God; woe unto the foolish prophets that follow their own spirit and have seen nothing. Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord." (Ezekiel 13:3-8.)

If we study the Bible it will reveal to us the errors that are held out before us; it will reveal the pitfalls and snares and destruction.

Isaiah says, "Woe unto them that put darkness for light and light for darkness." The word was the light of the world amidst the darkness of the ages that preceded the incarnation, and the darkness comprehended it not. We may exist but there is no life in us if we are not living in Christ and He in us. No matter how mannerly or what a pleasing appearance we may make, if Christ is not living in us we are

in death.

Men and women must be twice born in order to see and comprehend the things of God. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3:5-6.) "Ye must be born again."

It was not to a sin blackened, besotted man that Jesus was talking, but it was to Nicodemus with his morality and clean life, an honest man, with his position as a teacher of the only true religion in the world at that time, that Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." It is by the Spirit, the water and the blood all agreeing in one that we are brought to the birth into the kingdom of God, the kingdom of life, light and liberty, the kingdom of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

If we know the truth as it is in Jesus, and obey it from the heart the truth will make us free. If the truth has set us free in Jesus' kingdom we have life, light and liberty. Freed from the penalty of sin, also freed from the power of sin. Since in Christ we have the victory over Satan, sin and death, we should walk as children of light, life and liberty.

The new birth is vital to our entering upon a new state of being. It is placed at the entrance of the kingdom of God and never can be disannulled.

The communion of the body and blood of Christ is essential to the new life in Christ Jesus. He says, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood ye have no life in you." (John 6:53.) It was the blood of the passover lamb that was a protection to God's people on the night of the exodus from Egypt—just so the blood of Christ is the Christian's passover lamb, the Lamb of God would give spiritual life to the whole world. In the Paschal meal the Israelites ate the flesh of a literal lamb, in the sacrament Jesus came to provide for His people, they by faith eat the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of the true Lamb of God. By partaking of the bread and water of life we obtain present benefit, grounded on Jesus vicarious death and our union with our Redeemer the source of life.

He says, "Do this in remembrance of me." Jesus said to the Jews, "I am the bread of life. Your fathers of whom you speak, did eat manna in the wilderness. But they are all dead. The manna did not come down from heaven, it is my flesh which is the life of the world." He implies that His death will be a sacrificial death and the bread which He will give is His flesh which He will give for the life of the world, that every element in Him which possesses the life-giving virtue.

At the last supper when Jesus instituted the communion of the bread and wine He said, "This is My body which is broken for you." (Luke 22:19.)

"Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life: and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:53-54.)

"He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me and I in him." (John 6:54.)

There is a resurrection life imparted in the lives of men and women here in this present life on this earth so as to become the very life of the followers of Christ. It is by feeding on Jesus, the life and light of men, that eternal life is obtained. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Ye must be born again. The new birth is at the entrance of the church, the communion is in the church. The religion of Jesus Christ goes to the root of everything in our lives and creates us anew in Christ Jesus.

Jesus knew the worth of a man as he came from the hand of God. In pity and love he saw Adam's race in ruins and in mercy and love He would not abandon the wreck, but with regenerating power He brought from heaven to earth the plan of salvation from sin, the second birth, into the second Adam, Jesus Christ.

Alas! Many people today are placing a bushel over the Light of the world. Paul says, "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." (II Tim. 4:3.)

The advantages of church federation is being advocated and viewed from every point that can be devised. Some churches believing in the Deity of Christ, the Holy Trinity, the virgin birth of Jesus, the immaculate conception, the atoning blood of Christ, are either allied with or looking for points of contact with churches that discard at least a part of the fundamentals of the church for which Jesus gave His life and blood, a priceless purchase.

Some that hold to trine immersion, feet washing, the Lord's supper are strangely federated with people who reject them. The religions of every communion under the sun are sometimes invited to meet and commune on one common ground. One minister that I had conversed with on the New Testament ordinances of the church and he appeared to adhere strongly to trine immersion, the Lord's supper, the communion, feet washing and so forth, but he went shortly afterward to Cincinnati, where there was to be an open communion of this kind and took the communion with them.

Clay and iron strangely mingled. Surely we are living in the time of the toes of Daniel's vision. These open communions are surely not

resting on the solid rock, Christ Jesus, the Rock that shall crush all that is false.

War with all its horrors and unspeakable sins is menacing the world today. A trustworthy church paper has this to say. "The population of the world is estimated to have reached two billion, and our prolific race is reinforced annually by an increase of thirty millions to its number...each numeral in the vast statistics represents a soul into which God has breathed the breath of life, enshrined within a tabernacle of flesh and blood, marvelous to science, and capable of rapturous pleasure—liable also to the pain of crucifixion. Jesus suffered he died, he gave his life blood to redeem us from a fate more terrible than the crucifixion. "These are the stakes for which we are playing the game of international policy."

Are the men and women and the children living in the world today and the ones yet to be born—if the world stands—to be allowed to live in houses or must they be driven to live in dens and caves of the earth. Dare they show their faces or must they wear gas masks. Are the people that are born or to be born to be permitted to live out their natural life? All this in the light of this twentieth century of the Son of Righteousness. "Men have put the lighted candle under a bed."

NEWS ITEMS

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Waynesboro, Pennsylvania Congregation plans Revival Meetings, August 10 through 17, 1997 with Elder David Skiles. Remember these services in prayer, that lost souls may be saved, and each would be drawn closer to the Lord. Everyone is welcome to worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing the Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation will hold Revival Meetings, August 22 through 31. Bro. Jim Meyers of Iowa will be the speaker. We invite all who can to attend these services, 7:30 each evening, 9:30 Sunday mornings. Remember the meetings in your prayers. "That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Philippians 1:27.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Swallow Falls Congregation will have Revival Services, August 23 through August 31. Elder Ray Reed from the Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation will be our evangelist. Our Lovefeast will be held on Saturday, August 30. PLEASE NOTE THIS

IS A CHANGE FROM OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED REVIVAL MEETING AND LOVEFEAST DATE. We invite as many who can to come and worship with us. We are few in number here and greatly appreciate having visitors come to fellowship with us.

We also had the privilege of enjoying a week of Revivals with Elder Paul Hartz as our evangelist in March. We rejoiced to add a dear sister to our group at that time. A special thanks to those who visited during those meetings. We also thank the ministers and their families who come one weekend a month to share God's Word with us. May God bless each one.

Sister Marie Sines, Cor.

THANK YOU

On Saturday, June 7, 1997, enroute to, and looking forward to, our first Annual Conference, our van's right rear tire blew out. We lost control of the van and rolled two and a half times in the ditch. Bless the Lord that all nine of us were able to crawl out a window under our own power. My wife, Donna, was bleeding badly from a gash in her scalp and one on her knee. The rest of us were bruised and shaken up with a few abrasions. We thank the Lord first for no deaths, no broken bones and no long term disabilities.

Second, we thank the Lord for the Church. The practical love, help and encouragement given to us on Saturday, Sunday and Monday assuaged many of our worries and fears about decisions, changes and imminent necessities.

We want to say a special thank you to our family at the Grandview Church. These people came to the hospital to get us, made several trips between Conference and our towed van, made phone calls for us, brought in our meals and loaned us a vehicle in which to travel home. They also watched two of our children throughout Conference and transported them safely home.

We also want to say a special thank you to those who stayed with our belongings at the crash site, transported them to camp, and attended to our needs at the hospital. We would like to thank everyone else for your kind gestures, small gifts and your prayers and words of encouragement. We do not mention names because we fear missing someone. There were so many of you. You know who you are. We thank you all.

Finally we can only say thank you to everyone at Conference for the gift of money raised by a special offering Sunday afternoon. The total amount came to \$7,923.52. We know it was given from your hearts. We are new to the Dunkard Brethren Church, but have realized that the basic theology of loving others - "especially those of the household of God" - is a unique and powerful bond that

distinguishes the denomination from many others.

We may not have heard the wonderful preaching or enjoyed the fellowship of Conference like we had planned, but God let us experience the Church at its loving best. For that we are grateful.

Donna is healing well and the rest of us are whole again. With your gift we have purchased a different van. As we drive it we will remember your gift of love.

Steven and Donna Kooistra and family

NOTICE

The Dunkard Kitchens Cookbook published in 1992 has been reprinted and is again available. We appreciate the help of all involved in the publication. The price is \$10.50. Proceeds will be used for the benefit of our school.

Sister Nancy E. Marks
1813 N. 136th Ave.
Hart, MI 49420
616-873-2113

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1997

August 3 - The Word And Its Power - Hebrews 4:12-16.

1. Just how powerful is the Word of God? Explain.
2. How is Jesus Christ "touched with the feeling of our infirmities"?

August 10 - God: The Author Of Eternal Life - Hebrews 5:1-14.

1. By what did Jesus Christ learn obedience, even though He is the Son of God?
2. Unto all them that do what is Jesus Christ "the author of eternal salvation"?

August 17 - Falling Away - Hebrews 6:1-9.

1. How do we "Go on unto perfection"?
2. What are "Things that accompany salvation"?

August 24 - Heirs Of God's Promise - Hebrews 6:10-20.

1. What requirements precede the inheritance of God's promises?
2. What is "The hope set before us"?

August 31 - The Priesthood Changed - Hebrews 7:1-17.

1. How is the priesthood of Jesus Christ different from the Levitical priesthood?
2. "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." Explain.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1997

August 3 - The Candles - Matt. 5:14-16, Mark 4:21, Luke 11:33-36.

1. How is our personal acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior like the lighting of a candle?

2. How can we make sure our whole body is "full of light"?

August 10 - The Mustard Seed-Matt. 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19

1. Why did Jesus compare the Kingdom of God to the smallest of all seeds, the mustard seed?

2. Explain how God can use the least things in our lives and make them the greatest things for His Kingdom?

August 17 - The Salt - Matt. 5:13, Luke 14:34-35, Mark 9:49-50.

1. What savour must we have in our lives to be "The Salt of the earth?"

2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Have salt in yourselves"?

August 24 - Opportunities - Matt. 9:37, Matt. 26:40-41, I Cor. 16:9.

1. What are the prerequisites to being a laborer in God's harvest?

2. How will watching and praying help us recognize and use the opportunities God gives to us?

August 31 - High Standards - Gen. 17:1, Matt. 5:48, Heb. 6:1, Heb. 12:14, II Cor. 7:1.

1. How is it possible to be "perfect, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect."

2. No man will see God without what?

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

AUGUST 1, 1997

NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LONGING FOR FIRST LOVE

O where is now that glowing love
That marked our union with the Lord?
Our hearts were fixed on things above,
Nor could the world a joy afford.

Where is the zeal that led us then
To make our Saviour's glory known?
That freed us from the fear of men,
And kept our eye on Him alone?

Where are the happy seasons, spent
In fellowship with Him we loved?
The sacred joy, the sweet content,
The blessedness that then we proved?

Behold, again we turn to Thee;
O cast us not away, though vile;
No peace we have, no joy we see,
O Lord our God, but in Thy smile.

-Thomas Kelly

COME AND SEE

When a child sees something that thoroughly amazes him, he will run to get an adult who might share the wonder of what he has seen. He may very well yell out the words, "Come and See." This is his invitation to see the newborn kittens, the woolly caterpillar, the quick spider, the dewy grass or a hundred and one things that fascinate him. Most of these things do not faze an adult to whom they are commonplace and taken for granted. These words are the voice of excitement. Something new has been found and enjoyed. These words invite the participation of others. Hopefully they too will be able to enter into the excitement that originally produced those words.

"Come and See," is an invitation to a fellowship of shared interests. It is welcoming the participation of another. Adults may not show the same enthusiasm as a child but they, too, may invite others to "Come and See."

The words, "Come and See" are located throughout the Bible. The following passages illustrate the various attributes of God, both the Father and the Son.

The Psalmist David called the attention of individuals to the great works of God. In Psalms 66:5, he writes, "Come and see the works of God:...." He marveled at the mighty works that God had done. He was impressed particularly with how the Children of Israel had been delivered through the Red Sea. It was terrible in its greatness and unexpectedness. It was terrible as the Egyptians viewed the destruction of the elite of their army. The mercy of God toward Israel became the destruction of the Egyptians.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

AUGUST 1, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office, Wauseon, Ohio 43567.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567-9586. Second Class Postage paid at Wauseon, OH.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor, R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

The Prophet Isaiah invited men to come and see the glory of God. Especially was this glory shown in His judgment of those who had refused to serve Him. Isaiah 66:18 shows His glory to all as they behold how He deals with the disobedient. His glory is shown not only in magnificent views and pleasant surroundings. His glory can be seen in the power displayed as He upholds His holiness, which way men have disregarded.

John 1:39. John the Baptist recommended that his disciples discontinue following him and begin following Jesus. Jesus was the Lamb of God sent to die for the sins of the world. When they approached Him, they asked where He dwelt. He invited them to come and see. The Son of God, as the Son of man, needed the ordinary equipment of life, just as other men. He left the glory of Heaven to identify Himself totally with the human family so He could be their sinless, Great High Priest.

Philip, a new disciple of Jesus, went to call another friend. John 1:46. Nathaniel could hardly believe that anyone good could come from Nazareth. Philip told him to come and see. When he came to Jesus, he was totally overwhelmed. He confessed Him as the Son of God. The best proof of Jesus is to experience Him as Lord and Saviour. Such an experience will overwhelm as a head-knowledge can never do.

Jesus was informed of the death of Lazarus. When He came to Bethany four days later, the friends of Lazarus led Him to the tomb. They said to come and see where Lazarus was laid. John 11:34. This was a time of grief and sorrow. Apparently all was ended as far as Lazarus' earthly life was concerned. When Jesus came to see, it actually meant there would be a glorious resurrection. Jesus was more concerned with life than death. He is the resurrection and the life.

The Apostle Paul called upon the Philippians (Phil. 1:27) to continue in unity and peace. He wanted a good report of their Christian fellowship, whether he was absent or he came and saw them in person. The Church needs to be in unity and Christian fellowship whether being watched by men or not. God is watching all the time.

In Revelation 6:1,3,5, and 7, the four beasts called for all to come and see as the seals were opened. Here was the fulfilling of the work of Jesus Christ. He would be revealed in a fuller way throughout the Book of Revelation. The invitation was sent out to accept the offer of eternal life secured through the Son of God. Although there may be many mysteries in the Book of Revelation, we can understand that Jesus is the provider of our eternal life.

After Jesus spent a special time with the woman at the well, she was

so amazed by what He had told her that she could not contain herself. She went back to the city. There she told the men to Come, see Jesus. He had told her all about herself. She believed He was the Messiah. She quickly shared the amazing news with her neighbors and friends.

Have you come and seen Jesus? Have you enjoyed the various aspects of His ministry? Have you shared the Good News with others? If not, Come and See.

M.C.Cook

AND NOW ABIDETH CHARITY OUR LOVE FOR GOD

Deut. 6:4-5, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is our Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." In Matt. 22:36-40 Jesus confirms that this was the great commandment. "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Mark 12:28-34 adds that the scribe said thou hast said the truth, and Jesus said, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

Moses reminds the people that the promises of God are based upon their continued love for God. Deut. 11:1, 13, 22; 19:9 and 30:6, 16, 20. More about this in Romans 8:28.

I Kings 3:3, "And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places." (Apparently only unto the Lord.)

But I Kings 11:1 says, "But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;" And they turned him away from the Lord, to serve other gods.

We need to be careful that we do not turn from our first love, and be turned to the love of the world.

Neh. 1:5, "And said, I beseech thee, O Lord God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:"

Ezekiel 33:31, "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." Let us beware that we do not love to

hear certain speakers, and love to hear the lovely singing, but forget to love the Lord with all our heart, and to obey him. Please read the whole passage. Ezekiel 33:23-33.

Luke 7:47, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."

John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 14:28, "Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for the Father is greater than I."

Please read John 21, taking special note of verses 15-19.

Rom. 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Beware, what we do does not change the fact, that God loves us, but many of the promises are based upon our love for Him.

I Cor. 16:22, "If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha."

II Tim. 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Tim. 4:8, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

I Pet. 1:7-9, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."

I John 2:15, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

II John 5-6, "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it."

Rev. 2:4, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love."

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, My Saviour art thou;

If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee, because thou hast first loved me,
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I will love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
And praise thee as long as thou lendest me breath,
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

May our love for Him abound more and more, as we await His coming. God bless you all richly.

Brother William Carpenter

DEALING WITH FALSE TRUTH

Deuteronomy 13:1-4, "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, **And the sign or the wonder come to pass**, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."

The phrase "false truth" appears to be a contradiction of terms. Yet, that is exactly what this portion of Holy Scripture is dealing with. The subject matter, itself, is relevant for our time. This is a time when those who profess to have the power of signs and wonders are very prominent in the church scene. There are also other applications, we believe.

The world of science has challenged the Church with supposed facts that they say are established and proven. One of the latest, ridiculous, in our opinion, pronouncement is that birds have evolved from dinosaurs. First, science proclaimed that all life evolved from a single cell creature. That came from where?... Theistic evolutionists added

"with the help of God" and gave this pronouncement their blessing. We can deal with this issue in several ways. We could deny that such creatures as huge dinosaurs ever existed. Skeletons have been found that makes their existence a fact. Evolutionary scientists (there are scientists that believe in a literal six day Creation) would have you believe that since the existence of dinosaurs is an established fact, the rest of their scientific propaganda is also established facts.

Returning to the signs and wonders issue, many have been persuaded that the signs of true Christianity is miraculous healings and other miracles performed. To counteract this some have stated that the time of miracles has ceased. We are persuaded that this is also false.

Another false truth that appears to be growing in acceptance is the teaching of unconditional, eternal security. In reaction to this teaching many have established a works religion which is also a false truth. The fact of the matter is we do have eternal assurance. We do not believe God is going to "throw us out" for a human weakness (that is sin) with which we are struggling. That does not mean that we can willfully sin and especially live a lifestyle contrary to the Word of God. Actually, we believe that those who fall from the faith and are thus lost, remove themselves from God, rather than God "throwing them out." Since so many have accepted this false truth, it is said to be proven by the number of adherents.

We believe the answer to how to deal with false truth is given in the last verse of our Scripture study. First of all "Ye shall walk after the Lord your God." God has given us a road map to lead us in our walk with Him. This is the Holy Bible. We believe we are safe when we stay with the King James Version for gathered worship and personal study. We must accept as truth everything from Genesis chapter one to Revelation chapter twenty-two verse twenty-one.

Secondly, we have to fear Him (God). This is a sense of reverence and awe. We believe that we must also have a literal fear of God, in the same sense as we fear those in authority if we attempt to break the law. While Christians are not under the law, neither are we exempt from God's teachings in the New Testament.

Thus, we have to keep His commandments. A large portion of the earthly church is thoroughly confused concerning the difference between human works and obedience to the Word of God.

Next we have to obey His voice. Does God speak to His people today? We believe the answer is a definite "yes." We believe God can still speak through dreams and visions. Usually He speaks through the still small voice of the Holy Spirit.

Then, we shall serve Him. Beware of those who tell us there is

nothing wrong with going after other gods. The gods of amusement and worldly fashion have blinded the eyes of most of so-called Christianity.

Last of all we must cleave unto Him (God). No matter what the majority opinion may be, we must cleave to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Following and teaching false truth may make you popular with the religious crowd, but in the end it will damn your soul!

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

INTERCESSION

Fasting

Continued from June 1, 1997 Issue

Fasting is something that seems to be overlooked by many Christians today. It is a powerful tool that may be the key to unlocking doors that otherwise may not be opened. Mark 9:14-29 KJV.

As we look at fasting we must realize that intercession most certainly can be effective without fasting. We do not want to lead anyone to believe that they can not have a close walk with God if they do not fast. However, I do believe that fasting (done properly, with the right attitude) is far more important than most people realize. Fasting seems to add power to intercession.

It is interesting to notice that Jesus referred to fasting "when" not "if". Jesus also addressed fasting much like giving. Matthew 6:16-18, "Moreover when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thine face; that thou appear not unto men to fast but unto thy father which is in secret: and thy father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." The Bible records several public fasts, but for the most part fasting should be between an individual and God. If we are in tune with God and have a desire to carry out His will the Holy Spirit will instigate and lead us in this area.

This little article is not intended to be a guide or a study concerning fasting. It is intended to whet your appetite so that you will study, research, and become involved if you are not, and more involved if you are.

The writer is most certainly not trying to influence one to fast without proper guidance or to try lengthy fasts without experience. If God seems to be leading you to fast and if this is new to you, please

research before becoming involved and please do not make any brash commitments until you thoroughly understand what you are doing.

If God has pricked your heart and you want to know more about fasting please feel free to call or write me and I will supply you with a book that thoroughly covers the subject. If fasting is new to you or if you have used it extensively but would like more input, I will supply this book free for the asking. (No, I did not write the book.)

Brother Roger Swihart
R. 3 Box 73
Quinter, KS 67752
913-754-3513

ASHAMED

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15.

Are we ashamed to accept the Bible in child-like faith? "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Mark 10:15. "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:11. It also says to be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh, a reason of the hope that is in you.

People may think we are a "peculiar" people, as some of our practices are different than that of most Churches, like feet washing. Jesus said, "If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet." I once heard a minister preach on the Lord's Supper as related in John. He told how beautiful a service it was for the Lord to wash the disciples' feet. At the last part of his sermon he said, "I suppose you wonder why we do not practice it." He had no quarrel with those who do but it is non-doctrinal as only John relates it. Another said, after I had seen the newspaper showing and telling of the act, that Jesus only washed the Apostles' feet, so only the officials of their church did it.

Did Christ teach or any of the New Testament writers teach the use of the musical instrument to worship God? The New Testament writers say to sing unto the Lord. King David was the only one, I know of, who advocated the use of the instrument to praise God. It was said in Samuel that Saul slew his thousands but David slew his ten thousands. Considering all his wives and his adultery, should we be followers of David or Christ? God chooses whom He wills. He is God. Need we add to that which Christ and the New Testament writers taught?

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt

believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Is not this a positive statement?

What are the things that Christ says are important? This should be what His followers should try to do. There are only a few important ones. Study the Bible to find out for yourself. On the Christian road, a right turn should be made, then go straight.

Brother Walter C. Myers

HOW IS YOUR APPETITE?

Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Do you have a good appetite? To a mother, a child saying, "I am not hungry" is cause for alarm. This child is sick. Spiritually, one who does not have an appetite for God's Word is in need of help. In I Peter 2:2 it says, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby." The Word of God has been provided to keep Christians healthy. Do we have an appetite for it?

There are many concerns when it comes to nutrition. We may be eating too much. We may not be eating enough. We may be eating the wrong food. We may be eating irregularly.

As for God's Word, we should have a regular time for it each day. We should be systematic. In other words, we must digest all of God's Word over a period of time so none will be missed. We should study and meditate upon it every day, so we will not be malnourished. We cannot gorge ourselves, because this leads to the inability to put our faith into practice. A fat man cannot run a race like one who is in good physical condition. Food must be properly chewed, just as it must be properly cooked and prepared for eating. God's Word must be taken in amounts that we can tolerate. Our hearts and minds must be prepared beforehand.

We would take our child to the doctor if he were not eating or growing properly. We observe children every day. We know what is proper growth and behavior for a child of any given age. We know something is wrong if a child stops eating, or stops talking. So why do we have difficulty gauging the spiritual health of others? We are told not to judge others, but it is very important that we recognize the signs so we can warn others of impending danger. If we truly love our Brethren we will look out for their spiritual welfare.

So how do we achieve an "appetite" for God's Word? Learn to know the Author, and you will have no trouble with your appetite. The scripture tells us that Jesus was the firstborn among many brethren. He is our brother, and God is our father. Such a relationship will foster

a great appetite. Is God truly your Father? Can you claim Him as your Lord? If so, eat heartily. "Harken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." Isaiah 55:2.

Thou lovely source of true delight,
Unseen whom I adore,
Unveil thy beauties to my sight,
That I may love thee more.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1937

PEACE

D. W. Hostetler

It is of infinite importance that we live for the best things. We cannot afford to come short of the very best. No one who even wants to live for the best can possibly condone war. War never settled anything.

Peace brings confidence, harmony, mutual concerns, and good will. Where peace rules, people live for each others good and to enhance each others' happiness.

Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father Prince of Peace." The titles applied to Christ in this prophecy show His greatness. If He is the Prince of Peace and the government is upon His shoulder, that government is one of peace. In John 18:36 Christ says, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but my kingdom is not from hence." Christ's kingdom is not of the world, but His kingdom is a kingdom of peace. And as long as the kingdoms of this world crowd out the Prince of Peace, they will never have universal peace. In John 14:27, Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you."

The world endeavors to bring peace through carnality. Jesus Christ brings peace through love. It is true that the peace Jesus gave to the world is the reconciliation with God, through the death of Christ. But if the rulers of the nations of the world accept Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and allow Him to rule their lives, war will cease.

Consider these two things: "Love thy neighbor as thyself," and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." If the nations of the world would just do these two things, this would be a happy world to live

in. These two weapons would be very kind of weapons by which to conquer the enemy. Paul one time said, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but are spiritual." Spirituality means love, kindness, compassion, good will, mercy, long suffering, pity, endurance. John taught this lesson when the soldiers said, "And what shall we do?" John's answer was clear cut and needs no argument, and his teaching strikes the key note of peace. Jesus' teaching on the Mount brings the great doctrine closer. He told us to love our enemies, bless them that curse us and persecute us, and do good to them that hate us. Paul in Romans 12, teaches that we should not be overcome with evil, but to overcome evil with good.

So the Dunkard church has always stood for peace, peace with God, the church, and the community. It has always been opposed to carnal war. It is the business of the church to cry out against war and ever hold to the message the angels announced, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to men." The good news the angels announced should fill and thrill our hearts and souls, so that we will be true representatives of the Prince of Peace.

Non-Swearing

Swearing is a careless, blasphemous use of the name of the Divine Being. But what about the civil oath? Since there are those who have conscientious scruples against taking an oath, the law allows them to make a simple affirmation, to maintain, declare, allege, assert, or state.

But it is claimed by some that the Bible gives liberty to swear when one is called into court as a witness. It is stated in Matt. 5, "Thou shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths," and in Deut. 7:13, "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God and serve him, and shalt swear by His name." Here, swearing (whatever it was then) is associated with the fear of the Lord. But Paul in Rom. tells us, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." So Jesus in His great teaching says, "But I say unto you, swear not at all; neither by heaven: for it is God's throne; nor by the earth: for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem: for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication by Yea, yea; nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." The teaching of Jesus prohibits swearing under any condition or consideration.

In James 5:12 we read, "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

This teaching of the scripture is disregarded by many Christian

professors and even churches. Slang and profanity are popular everywhere. It is on a common level with cigarette smoking and beer drinking—things that are being done everywhere by the worldly; but under the teaching of the scripture, all these things go down in damnation.

Non-Secrecy

The Dunkard church does not affiliate with secret oath-bound orders. This has been the position of the church from her beginning. In 1804 the General conference passed the first decision against secret orders. And since that time, there has been a multiplicity of lodges and other benevolent orders come into existence. Sam Jones one time said that the Mooses, the Elks, and Eagles had organized, and that he was expecting the crows, the hawks, the owls, and the buzzards to organize next.

Jeff Ray of Fort Worth, Texas, in a book called "The Highest Office" in which he deals with the ministry, he said, "I see no good reason why any minister or any other church member should belong to any lodge." That is what the Dunkard Brethren think, for in the gospel of Christ, we have a system of teaching that is perfect. It controls life socially, morally, physically, economically, spiritually. The church stands for all this teaching of the New Testament. It would be decidedly inconsistent to join a lodge to get something the church already has. And in the church it is free.

Jesus Christ spoke openly to the world, and His teaching was not in secret, behind bolted doors. He did not put his disciples under an oath never to reveal his teaching, but said, "Freely ye have received and freely give."

In II Cor. 6:14, we have a text direct to the point. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." In the lodge there is union among the members, be they good, bad, believers, unbelievers, or of any other kind.

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine that men may see your good works, and thereby glorify your father which is in heaven." The light is reflected in good works. So Jesus teaches us not to put the light under a bushel and if He lived today, He would probably not add bolted doors and keep it secret, but put it on a candlestick so it may give light to all the good things in Jesus' teaching.

The Simple Life

Plainness, freedom from artificial ornament, simplicity of dress, of style, of language and writing (Winston) Godly, simplicity, in scripture, in faith, open profession and practice of evangelical truth with a view to glorify God is nothing but a life of simplicity. Jesus Christ in His great

prayer in John 17 thanked the Father that He had given Him the disciples, that He had taken them out from the world and that they were His. He prayed the Father not to take them out of the world, but that He should keep them from the evils of the world. Again we read that Christ gave Himself for our sins that He might deliver us from this present evil world. These texts do teach a very definite, separate, simple life. The properties and qualities that go into the making of the Christian life are very definite and different from the things that go to make up a worldly life. For that reason, Paul says, "And be not conformed to this world." That means the Christian will not do anything the world does if it is wrong.

Peter says, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in your ignorance." A principle is stated here—not to conform to the world, but to conform to that system of teaching that will transform the life so it will prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Suggested reading: I Tim. 2:9-10; I Peter 3:3-5.)

To conform to the teaching of the scripture as it pertains to the simple life is to make our lives like His pattern or standard.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION NEWS

COUNSEL

"Do you think I should go to the horse race?" This was a question recently asked of me by a Navajo brother.

I am reminded of a wise elder of by-gone days who had six sons. The boys all liked to play ball. There was some feeling within the church then that playing ball was not appropriate. This wise father gathered his sons together and counseled them not to play ball on the Lord's day or in any way that would cause offense but did not forbid them from playing behind the barn at appropriate times.

The thing that impresses me most is that the Navajo brother had remembered a "recommendation" from his certificate of Baptism. It states, "Counsel older members before doing anything of doubtful propriety."

I am impressed, for in that act of seeking counsel is expressed an attitude that would do us all well to practice. Seeking counsel of older members is certainly almost a lost practice. How many times have we plunged headlong into questionable areas to our own hurt when if we had sought counsel it could have been avoided?

May God help us all, young or old, to have enough respect and love for the church that we will gladly seek and receive her counsel.

Brother David Skiles

SPEAKING

We live and learn in this old world
And as we older grow,
Still more and more we realize,
Its so little that we know.
There's one thing that we wish we knew,
It's where and when to speak
And how to say the things we feel
To help the poor and weak.

So many times we want to talk,
But don't know what to say,
To give some one the strength he needs
To help him on his way.
If God would grant one perfect gift,
To one so small and weak,
The thing I'd ask is just to know
When and where and how to speak.
Selected by Brother William Carpenter

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The telephone Area Code for Brethren Robert Carpenter, Lloyd Lorenz, Harley Rush and Mike Wray have been changed from 317 to 756. This change is effective now. Otherwise their phone numbers remain the same.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Congregation will have revival meetings with Bro. Phil Gish, August 31 through September 7, 1997. Lovefeast will be Saturday, September 6 at 6:00 P.M. Other services Saturday will be at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Sunday services will be at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to worship with us!

New members at Grandview are: Steve, Donna, Jennifer, Jody, Jesse and Joshua Kooistra, John Rissler and Karen Burkholder.

Sister Deena Andrews

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397- County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Mike Wray, Secretary
R. 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Ray Stuber
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, PA 17356

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Paul Nell
Woodland Drive
R6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, PA 17403
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
R. 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

AUGUST 15, 1997

NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NOR SILVER NOR GOLD

Nor silver nor gold hath obtained my redemption,
Nor riches of earth could have saved my poor soul;
The blood of the cross is my only foundation,
The death of my Savior now maketh me whole.

Nor silver nor gold hath obtained my redemption,
The guilt on my conscience too heavy had grown;
The blood of the cross is my only foundation,
The death of my Savior could only atone.

Nor silver nor gold hath obtained my redemption,
The holy commandment forbade me draw near;
The blood of the cross is my only foundation,
The death of my Savior removeth my fear.

Nor silver nor gold hath obtained my redemption,
The way into heaven could not thus be bought;
The blood of the cross is my only foundation,
The death of my Savior redemption hath wrought.

-James M. Gray

AN ACCEPTED SACRIFICE

Under the Old Testament system, it was necessary to continually offer sacrifices for sins. On the yearly Day of Atonement, the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies. There he sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice. God would accept that sacrifice as the atonement for the sins of the people for that year. The High Priest was obligated to repeat the same procedure the next year.

God had designed this system of sacrifices as a part of the Old Testament law to be a symbolic picture of the Plan of Salvation that was revealed in the New Testament. The sacrifice of animals looked to the shedding of the blood of Jesus Christ, the perfect sacrificial lamb.

The law was given as a schoolmaster to prepare His people for the ultimate plan God had conceived before the world was created. After the coming of the real plan, the preview that was the old law passed away. For a Christian to adopt the ordinances, diet code, sabbaths or other particulars of the fulfilled law is to follow a dead law. It casts doubt upon the finished work of Jesus Christ. It accepts the imperfect when the perfect is available. It is being satisfied with an oft-times atonement rather than a completed atonement.

Jesus as the sacrificial lamb of God came to earth in the form of man to taste life as men lived it. He was able to face all the trials and temptations that men are subject to, but never yielded to any. Facing temptation is not sin. Yielding to that temptation is sin. Jesus never yielded so He could qualify as the perfect sacrifice.

Through the wily devices of Satan and the religious leaders, who did his bidding, Jesus was convicted before the Sanhedrin and before Pilate. He was crucified. The atonement was not complete until He had suffered the cruelties of the cross, faced the rejection of His Father because of the sins of mankind laid upon Him, succumbed to physical

THE BIBLE MONITOR

AUGUST 15, 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethern Church in the plant of Haines Printing.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 6978 County Road 75, Spencerville, IN 46788.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor; R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362.

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

death, yielded His body to burial, led captivity captive, and carried His sacrifice to His heavenly Father. He passed through the heaven that we call, "atmosphere". He went on through the heavens that we call, "space". He entered into the third heaven, the dwelling place of God.

There He placed His completed work before His Heavenly Father. His father accepted it. He accepted it as the complete, once-for-all atonement for men's sins. Jesus' sacrifice was accepted!

For that sacrifice to be applied to individual lives, it is necessary for each individual to also accept that sacrifice. Jesus accepted what was necessary for Him to do to bring forth the perfect plan of salvation. God accepted what He did. It would seem logical that humans would readily accept what had been accomplished for them. Only the sacrifice of Jesus, now accepted by the Father, was able to provide for their souls' salvation. Their good works, the old imperfect law, their good intentions were incapable of accomplishing this work. Instead of all these things that men might do, they are asked to accept what has been done for them.

What should be gladly and thankfully accepted by all is instead what men must be persuaded to accept. Man is the weakest part in the chain of the plan of salvation. God has done His part in sending His greatest gift. Jesus did His part in providing the perfect sacrifice. God did His part in accepting what was done. Man, for whom all these things were done, has failed, in general, to accept the great purchase price paid for his soul's redemption.

The Church continues to spread the Word that men might realize what has been provided for him. He seems loath to accept such a great gift. What he should accept so readily, he has rejected. Men, today, are little different then the Jews of Jesus' time. He came to His own people, but they rejected Him. Actually these, who brought about His crucifixion, He was willing to forgive. He has willingly extended that offer of forgiveness to all mankind.

Accepting His sacrifice is not difficult, unless men make it difficult. It is an acknowledgment that He has paid this terrific price for each individual. It is an acknowledgment that there is personal sin that needs to be forgiven. It does not matter whether that sin is one of unbelief or of grossly sinful activities. All sin needs to be forgiven. There needs to be a mental determination to turn away from all sin. Baptism as the point of contact with the blood of Christ is necessary as the symbol of a death, burial and resurrection. The laying on of hands for the symbolic infilling of the Holy Spirit completes the acceptance of what Jesus Christ has done.

It has been approved by God. Have you approved of it and accepted it?

M.C.Cook

1997 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Ronald Marks opened. Matthew 16:21. Jesus talked with His disciples because He knew He would not be here forever. Peter was deceived by Satan. Do we want to follow Jesus or follow the world?

Bro. Dave Snyder. Genesis 2:15-17, John 17:15-26. Why are we on earth? Let's get on fire for the Lord. This old world is evil. If we are a mature Christian, we do not want any part of this world. If we are a Christian, are we Christ-like? Satan is out there to get us to miss the mark and forget Christ. We should glorify Jesus. Jesus said, "My Word is true." What is the Church's mission? Introduce someone to Christ. Christ changes lives. God's great commandment says to love your neighbors. Pray for the Church. Go into all of the world teaching as Jesus commanded us. Walk with Jesus Christ. Glorify and praise God. Satan wants to destroy the Church. Do we spend enough time in God's Holy Word? We must build our lives on the foundation of the Lord. What is pride? If we get with God, we can lose our pride. Satan is very smart and very deceitful in trying to discourage us in building the Church.

Bro. Kevin Funk closed. Are we a wayfaring people? Are we working for the Lord? It requires a sacrifice as a Church to build for Christ. We are in the world, but we are not of this world.

Saturday Evening.

Bro. Ray Stuber opened. Esther 4. Esther went to the King to save her people. She said, "If I perish, I perish." Esther wanted to save her people. She was willing to be taken off the throne for her people.

Bro. Paul Stump. Romans 9:31. Christian Security. We want to be secure in everything we do. Our greatest security is our Christian life. "If God be for us, who can be against us." Elisha was a man of God. Elijah was also a man of God. God fought the battle of all men for Elisha. Elisha was saved. The devil influences many people. We need to tell Satan, "get thee behind me," just as Christ told Satan. Put your trust in God. He will carry you through. Pray to God for security if we are in great trouble. There will be false prophets in the last days. Where is our security? Is it in God, or is it in false prophets? Stand for what is right. We need to witness for Christ. Are you secure in Christ? God is in control of the weather. It reminds us of the security in God. Be sure our lives radiate out in the world. There is a power in the white cover-

ings our sisters wear on their heads. There is power in prayer. The Psalmist David put his trust in God. The Bible points out that we must have love for one another. "He that hateth his brother is a murderer." Fear God and keep his commandments. Are we happy along the way, winning people to Christ?

Bro. Ray Reed closed. Romans 8. If we really love the Lord, we know we are secure.

Sunday Morning Worship.

Bro. Frank E. Shaffer. Philippians 2:1-18. We have a consolation with God. Put ourselves in the right perspective of God. Use a special effort to help someone. Let our light shine to others. We need that special power of God.

Sunday A.M.

Bro. Herman Jamison opened. I Peter 4:12-13. Trials and Tribulations. God allows trials and adversaries to come into our life. God has something in store for our lives. There is a reason for these things to come into our life.

Bro. Paul Nell. Can we Gentiles fall from Grace? Persecutions from within, are what draws us away from our Christian faith. Plain people have much to be thankful for. We can fall from the faith. There will be a time when people will not listen to sound doctrine. I Thess. 4:16-18. Jesus said, "Will I find faith when I come?" There are many Doctrines today. Christ gave us many instructions. He wants us to know the truth. The truth will make you free. Read the Scriptures and meditate on them. We can be deceived by many false prophets. Not one man privately wrote the Scriptures in the Bible. They were inspired by God. All unrighteousness is sin. The American people are a well-blessed people. Christ could come most any time. Are you looking for Christ's coming? He who doeth the will of the Father will be saved. If we have a problem in our life, we should go to the Lord for help. Keep peace in ourselves. Blessed are the peacemakers. We can fall from grace, if we are not careful.

Bro. Jacob Ness. I Kings 19:14-15. Can we feel the touch of the angel? Elijah did while he was asleep by the juniper tree. Do we benefit from the Scripture's warnings? Is the Church working for the kingdom of the Lord? The Apostle Paul was on many journeys. The Prodigal Son took his journey, but he saw his mistake leaving home. Where are you on your journey, working for the Lord? The most important is when we end our journey here on Earth. Are we in peace with the Father in Heaven?

Bro. Dale Jamison closed. Are we ready to leave this world?

Sunday P.M.

Bro. Warren Smith opened. Hebrews 2:1-6. Give thought to diligence. Do not let it slip from our minds. God said, "My words will never pass away." We need to fit ourselves to fit the Word of God. Neglect is a big word. It involves us many times. We need it to study the Word approved by God.

Bro. Robert Lehigh. Ephesians 5:25-27. Scraping over things in the Church can be a problem. Focusing on the Scriptures can be the answer. God's plan for the church is to be called out from the world. Holy and pure members who love God with all their soul are what God wants. A Church is made up of obedient people. As a Church, do we all love each other and work together in the Church? Have a love and respect for God's work. Teach people the "why's" and rules for members of the Church. Families teach children the Bible. We should build ourselves up in the holy faith. We should understand God's holy Word. Iniquity and idolatry are doing things against God. Iniquity is doing our own will. When we are asked to witness to someone, do it right away. Go to the Lord in prayer. The unity of the Lord is everlasting. We should have the bond of love in our Church. We can reap vengeance when committing sin. Satan is busy trying to accuse our members and causing problems. Those working as God's people are separate people from the world.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

BIBLE SCHOOL AT TORREON

I have just returned home from another enjoyable-and satisfying-trip to Torreon Navajo Mission. Several weeks ago, one of our young sisters asked if we thought there might be something she could do at the Mission for a week or so; we suggested she call Bro. David. David told her that if she could enlist at least two teachers and three or four helpers, the Mission would be able to have Bible School for the "north route."

On July 12, Abbie and Lindsey Bauman, Andrea Litfin, Kara Swihart and I left for New Mexico. We stopped in eastern Colorado to pick up another granddaughter, Carlin Custer. We made several sight-seeing stops so we did not get to the Mission until time for church Sunday evening.

Bro. Dale Newcomer was the speaker for the evening services. He had a farewell message and gave a testimony of the work at the Mission. Dale made a statement that impressed me very much. He said,

"You can not come to Torreon for eleven months-or even a week-and go away unchanged." The tears he had in his eyes emphasized that statement-as they did later in the week when the Newcomer family said, "Goodby," and left for their home in Maine.

Bible School commenced Monday evening. Bro. Dale Meyers and Kelly from Dallas Center were there, also. Dale helped with mechanic work during the day and taught the pre-teen boy's class in the evening. The day was spent helping everyone get their lessons and crafts prepared and the class area ready. The teachers were, David Skiles, Paul Skiles, Dale Meyers, Shirley Jamison, Sarah Skiles, Abbie Bauman and Elaine Hale, in order of the age of their pupils. Andrea, Lindsey, Kara and Kelly helped with singing, classwork and keeping order in the classroom. Most of the students have been entertained by television, so their attention span is very short. This makes for a lot of activity!

Each evening Bible class was followed by craft time. The children then had thirty minutes to play before we all went to the church for group singing, devotions and dismissal. There were ninety-plus students each evening. This included approximately ten adults in David's class. The largest attendance was on the last evening. What made this so exciting is that there was a "sing" (a Native American religious ceremony) in the area but these students had chosen to come to Bible School at Torreon.

The temperature was in the middle 90's most days but the humidity was very low. It did cool off at night. For a special treat, on two mornings, we, visitors, were taken on little 'jaunts,' while it was relatively cool, to places of special interest nearby. How many of you have seen Arch Springs, the Anasazi pictographs or the Hoo-dads? They are worth seeing!

I was impressed, as always, by the orderliness and the efficiency of the staff at Torreon. Everyone works-even Sarah's cats, which keep rodents (which may carry the Hanta Virus) under complete control. The grounds are neat. The schoolhouse is tidy. Even the school sidewalks were swept and washed each morning. The studying, the planning, the bookwork, the maintenance, everything goes on without much ado.

Sarah has been busy getting the boy's uniform shirts and the girl's uniform jumpers, skirts and blouses ready for school which will start in August. I used to think I was busy getting three girls ready for school. She sees that uniforms are ready for nearly fifty children!

Teaching groups came to help with three different Bible Schools, all during the month of July. Also, a group of young Brothers asked if they could come for one week during July to help with maintenance or whatever else was needed. Help of any kind is greatly appreciated. At differ-

ent times families or older couples have asked to come to help for several days or even a week. Several years ago one couple spent several months at the Mission to help with visitation. Whether the work accomplished was mending a child's shirt, repairing a vehicle or giving a cup of cold water-in the Name of Jesus-each had their reward.

As Bro. Dale Newcomer said, 'You can not come to Torreon for eleven months-or even a week-and go away unchanged.'

Torreon Navajo Mission has been teaching God's Word and helping the community in various ways for more than forty years. Many staff members have come and gone. Each gave of themselves to serve their Lord and received a blessing. Navajo Christians have and are worshipping the one, true God at Torreon.

I wish each of you could have seen Sis. Lillian, Bro. Herbert or Bro. Frank as they used to interpret God's Word. They would speak so earnestly trying to help their family and friends to understand the message of God's Word.

Torreon Navajo Mission is still teaching God's Word and working to help the people to find Salvation through Jesus Christ. Friday evening after class a child asked David, 'Is it really true that Jesus died for my sins?' In Isaiah 55:11 we read, 'So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.' And that, Brothers and Sisters, is a promise!
Sister Shirley Jamison

GOOD WORDS AND FAIR SPEECHES

Romans 16:17-18, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."

There is no denying the fact that we are in a day of divisions within the Church. There is also a great concern that we not be offensive in our speech or actions. The ultimate question is, who is causing divisions? Is it those who are contending for the faith as it has been understood down through the centuries by those who hold great esteem for God's Holy Word or is those who desire to take liberty with the written Word of God?

The Apostle Paul warns against those who cause divisions "contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned." Today the popular teaching is that doctrine causes division and should be avoided at all cost.

With their "good words and fair speeches" of loving one another and "being one" men have deceived the hearts of the simple.

The simple are those who do not take the time to study the Word of God for themselves or those who study it with the biased thinking of modern theologians. The Apostle Paul warns that these modern theologians "serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly." That is they serve their own desires. Their greatest desire is to be popular and to have many followers. Many times this allows them to live a luxurious lifestyle.

It is interesting that the Apostle Paul speaks of "good words." Some men have the ability to use just the right words at the right time to serve their own purposes. Have you ever been talked into buying something or entering into a business agreement that you later regretted? I know I have. By the same token, men within the established church "sell their ideas" with a smooth tongue.

Unfortunately, it is usually easier to follow the dictates of man than to follow the will of God. It is true that many cults have an ungodly hold on their members. Some have even gone so far as to cause their death.

Many have used this as an excuse to condemn any rules and regulations within an organization. Most plain groups have struggled with this dilemma. It is true that many of the distinctive marks of the plain people are not to be found in Holy Scripture. However, in our mind, the question is have these practices served to bring us closer to our Lord or drive us farther away? There is also the issue of whether or not these distinctives are a means of witnessing to the world of our faith. We have to be honest and admit that not every group and certainly not every member that is part of a plain Church leaves a good witness. We do not believe that it can be honestly denied that the world, as a whole, recognizes what plain dress stands for.

Modern technology and thinking have had an impact upon our lifestyle whether we are in favor of keeping the old ways or moving the Church into the future. The simple solution, as practiced by some groups, is to not allow members to have modern inventions. We are not persuaded that this is always using good judgment or even good common sense. If we are all farmers or carpenters, as most of the early plain people were, this might be acceptable. We are now involved in various professions. The idea expressed by some of our Church leaders of having personal accountability is a good one, in our estimation. No matter how many rules we have in a polity book, they will be worthless if we do not have individual convictions that correspond with them. We also think that the idea of having one individual to hold ourselves ac-

countable to has some merit. However, we must not lose our Brethren understanding of being accountable one to another as a Church. We are also persuaded that rules, new or already established, are worthless if they cannot be enforced.

The "good words and fair speeches" of some have caused doubt as to the authority and reliability of Holy Scripture. Theistic evolution has gained a foothold in the minds of some. Such things as the prayer veil are deemed to be the doctrine of men. Even many basic doctrines are challenged. Let us avoid both these false teachings and those who promote them. If they are a part of the group you belong to they should be dealt with.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1937

WRONG LEADERSHIP

Paul R. Myers

In the second chapter of I Kings, David, a man after God's own heart, gave Solomon his son, some very needy advice. Along with his great desire that Solomon would obey the command of God, we have these words, "And shew thyself a man."

In the beginning we know that God created man in his own image. God breathed into man and man became a living soul. This living soul in man is at least one definite distinction between man and the animals. None other of God's creation was given a soul, was given the opportunity and plan for the redemption of that soul.

By obeying the commandments of God, and carrying out his scriptural teachings, we can qualify that soul for a home, eternal in the heavens.

Particularly, do I wish to dwell on the words, "And show thyself a man."

Many things come to one's mind in this regard. In our everyday life we meet about all classes of that creation that bears the name "Man." By the many unchristian, false, unscrupulous acts that we see done, we must wonder if they can be called men.

We have these words from God's book, "Will a man rob God?" We do know that a man will rob man. We must look with shame upon the many things that man does to man in this day and age. I do not mean that to rob man, you must break into his home and steal. That is one

way. Another is to prevent a man from free access to his business, from preventing him from doing as he chooses, as long as he abides by the laws of the land. Also, whenever a man is hired to do a certain piece of work, and does not do it, or unconcernedly loiters on your time, I believe that he is just as much a robber as if he broke into your home and stole.

Coming close to the present situations, I firmly believe that any man, or group of men, however large or small, in the name of any individual or group, who boldly, illegally, irrespective of conditions seize and hold a plant or picket a property is a robber in the strictest sense. They are robbing an employer of his free access to his business. They are robbing many of the privilege to work who wish to work. They are robbing the community from improvements, investments, and that part of our constitution which was intended for our freedom and liberty.

Does it not make a person wonder why our so called Christian government is permitting such a condition to exist? Could it be that our leaders need a sprinkling of the word of God in their hearts? When we rob man thus are we not robbing God?

On Judgment day, can these labor leaders stand before God and say that they did not offend Him and His children?

I wonder if David was to pass one of these picket lines today and saw Solomon on picket duty, if he could say that Solomon was showing himself a man. I believe that God looks with much anguish and pain upon the happening of this day. I certainly do not believe that a Christian has any place in this new evil, causing an employer to be robbed of his free access to his business. Yet, how many Christian professing people wholeheartedly endorse and participate in this labor racket.

We have a higher duty to one another if done according to His will, can be a glory and honor to us and God.

First, we have the golden rule. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. If every man in our America really carried this out to the letter, I believe that it would end all labor strife, it would cause strikers to leave their seizures, it would cause employers to pay a living wage, it would bring world peace.

Second, attend church and Sunday school. Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together. The writer of those words must have known what would be the outcome, once you forsake the studying of God's word. You cannot learn mathematics or astrology without studying it. Neither will man learn of the Bible without studying it.

We are taught that we should ask God's will on all that we do. If God can not be in a thing, we should not. I wonder if a body of men, just before they are about to strike, would ask God to be with them in the

undertaking if they could go ahead, thinking that they are carrying out His will. I do not believe that it is His will to do those things.

We know that we must have leaders. We are instructed to follow our leaders only as far as they follow God. Why then, do men follow leaders in the battle of labor, who would not follow the same leaders to a religious meeting? They will back up their support to them, even charter their lives to them, pay big sums as dues, and then only to be eventually deprived of their job, because as soon as the poor working man discontinues to pay his dues and support this labor racket, that's how soon the labor leader will be disinterested in the laboring man.

It is a known fact that many men today are being so easily mislead. They pay their dues religiously so as to save their jobs, yet never paid a cent into the church coffers to help save their soul. I wonder if these labor leaders of today were to abruptly turn to religious leadership, how many union members today would be church members tomorrow? I fear none, so let us be very careful.

Let us be very careful who we are following. Do not allow ourselves to be influenced by non-believers.

TALEBEARERS

Leviticus 19:16, "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbor: I am the Lord."

Proverbs 11:13, "A talebearer reveleth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

Ezekiel 22:9, "In thee are men that carry tales to shed blood..."

The American Heritage Dictionary defines gossip as a trivial rumor of a personal nature. The Hebrew word for talebearer translates as a trader or a peddler. He trades his juicy little stories for prestige, or, if he is truly a slave to his bad habit, he trades his stories for others of the same type.

It was said of Jesus in John 11:36 when He wept over Lazarus, "Behold how he loved him!" Jesus truly loved mankind and was not afraid to express that love. Might this truly be said of the followers of Jesus in today's world, that they love one another and would do nothing to hurt one another.

Leviticus 19:16 has two parts. First, it speaks out against the talebearer, one that spreads false and hateful rumors. Secondly, it speaks against the one who stands against the blood of his neighbor. This means a person who falsely accuses another or who stands idly by and

watches an innocent person suffer wrong when he has the power or testimony to stop it. We have found that most of the time the talebearer and the false accuser have the same goal: to shed innocent blood. Yet there are those who, if they knew the end of their actions, would never begin their deception. They have the mistaken idea that they are doing good, regardless of whom it hurts.

If someone comes to you with idle gossip, ask yourself this question: What is the motive behind this juicy little piece of information? Remember that the devil had to break Eve's confidence in God before she would sin. He told her first that what God said was not so, so she could do as she pleased. (Then, of course, he told her what to do, making her think that is what she herself wanted to do, though it probably never entered her mind up until that time.) Who is it that is trying to undermine the confidence that Brethren have in one another? Is the messenger of these tidings doing it for the upbuilding of God's Church, or in order to build a kingdom for himself? Or perhaps, is he there to shed innocent blood?

In Luke 6:45 we are told, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." In I Timothy 5:13 it talks about idleness, tattlers and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. An evil heart not only brings forth evil, but it feeds on evil. What are we, as the Church, feeding upon? Is it the Good Word of God, that we may grow thereby? Or are we yet eating the husks of this world and trying to see how low we can go?

Knowledge is power. To know the Lord, to know His Word and His Will are wonderful things to which we can attain. To some, other types of knowledge is power. Beware of those who, by what or who they know, hold power over others. How did the serpent know that Eve would not surely die? He knew what the truth was, but he lied in order to get an advantage over Eve. Talebearers also know that they are doing evil. If all Christians would put a stop to this gossip by not spreading it further and by admonishing the gossip to stop, then the gossip would stop. But many are weak and they welcome the gossip. Do not let Satan get the advantage over you. Do not welcome gossip into your heart.

This I resolved before the Lord,
Now I will watch my tongue,
Lest I let slip one sinful word,
Or do my neighbor wrong.

And if I'm e're constrained to stay
With men of lives profain,
I'll set a double guard that day
Nor let my talk be vain.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073-9162

NEWS ITEM

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation is looking forward to a week's Revival, September 21 through 28. Bro. Gordon Jamison will be our evangelist.

Come, pray and worship with us. The Joy of the Lord is our Strength.
Sister Fern Wolfe, Cor.

NOTICE

The delegate body of 1997 General Conference decided that the **BIBLE MONITOR** would be issued as a monthly publication. To accomplish the intent of this decision, the Publication Board has decided to expand the number of pages of each issue from 16 to 32 pages. The Lord Willing, the September 1997 issue will be the first in this new format.

This will mean many changes for the Editor. It will also mean changes for you. You will be receiving your issue once a month. There is an immediate need for more articles to fill up these extra pages. To make it timely, it will be necessary for congregational correspondents to send in their news items sooner. The Editor should have your notices two months before the event.

With this issue, the **BIBLE MONITOR** is being printed by Haines Printing of Spencerville, Indiana. We have been thankful for the faithful service of the Tomahawk Printers of Wauseon, Ohio over the many years that they have been our printers.

The publishing of the **BIBLE MONITOR** and other facets of the work of the Publication Board require the financial, as well as the prayerful, support of our readers. With these changes, it is hoped that significant savings will be accomplished. Congregational and individual donations are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, Brother Mike Wray, RR 5 Box 98, Peru, IN 46970. Thank you for your prayers and support, especially in this time of dramatic change.

The Editor

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1997

September 7 - A Better Testament - Hebrews 7:18-28

1. Why is Christ's priesthood unchangeable?
2. Explain why the High Priest had to offer daily sacrifices for sin while Christ had to only offer Himself once.

September 14 - A Better Covenant - Hebrews 8:1-13.

1. What is "the true tabernacle which the Lord pitched, and not man?"
2. If God does not change, how could there be an old (first) Covenant and then a new (second) Covenant?

September 21 - Eternal Redemption - Hebrews 9:1-12.

1. What is "The time of Reformation"?
2. How did Christ obtain "Eternal Redemption for us"?

September 28 - The Only Perfect Sacrifice - Hebrews 9:13-28.

1. What will purge our conscience of dead works to serve the Living God?
2. Why does God require blood sacrifice for the remission of sin?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1997

September 7 - The Golden Rule - Matt. 5:43-48, Matt. 6:12, Luke 6:30-35.

1. Why is this command of Jesus called the "Golden Rule"?
2. According to the words of Jesus in these verses, how shall we "be the children of the Highest"(God)?

September 14 - Pleasure Seeking - Prov. 21:17, Luke 8:14, 12:19, II Peter 2:13-22.

1. How shall pleasure loving make us poor? Poor in what ways?
2. How can pleasure be one of "The pollutions of the world"?

September 21 - Secret Things - II Kings 17:9-14, Psalm 19:12, Eph. 5:11-17.

1. What is a "secret fault"?
2. How do the secret things of man compare to the secret things of God?

September 28 - The Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31.

1. How does death close the door of God's mercy?
2. Why did not the rich man ask to leave hell, neither to be with Lazarus, nor to testify to his brethren?

Haines Printing Company
6978 County Road 75
Spencerville, IN 46788

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #25
Harlan, IN

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

SEPTEMBER 1, 1997

NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WE'VE A STORY TO TELL TO THE NATIONS

We've a story to tell to the nations
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light.

We've a song to be sung to the nations
That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
A song that shall conquer evil
And shatter the spear and sword.

We've a message to give to the nations,
That the Lord who reigneth above
Hath sent us His Son to save us,
And show us that God is love.

We've a Savior to show to the nations
Who the path of sorrow hath trod,
That all of the world's great peoples
Might come to the truth of God.

-Colin Sterne

A STORY TO TELL

Many people have stories to tell. The type and purpose of their stories differ. Some stories would be better if not told. Others are instructive and helpful. Many tend to be boastful and self-serving. Often these stories provide entertainment. Probably the one telling the stories is entertained more than those who hear his tales.

Jesus told many stories during His ministry. His stories were not to entertain but to edify. His stories illustrated Spiritual truths. The stories He wrapped these truths in made it easier for His listeners to understand what He was trying to convey. The religious leaders of Israel disdained the common people. Jesus spent much time teaching the common people. He took the time to make His points understandable to all. It was the common people who heard Him gladly. The leaders were the ones who would not accept Him. They constantly found fault with Him. They were the ones who demanded He be crucified. The common people followed Him, at least, until their leaders made their response to Jesus a test of fellowship.

After His resurrection and ascension, it was the common people who became the most numerous part of the Church. The Jewish leaders mocked them as the unlearned. They questioned how they could believe and follow Jesus and His disciples. These learned divines had rejected Him for He did not conform to their expectations.

Everyone has a story to tell. Each person has something of

THE BIBLE MONITOR**SEPTEMBER 1, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethern Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 14 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor; R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362.

RUDY SHAFFER, Associate Editor; 42 Doe Run Road, Manheim, PA 17545.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

interest in their lives that they might share with others. Some even write their memoirs or autobiographies.

Whether the events of our lives are interesting enough to share with the world through a published account or not, we all should have a story to tell. The story that should be foremost in our lives should be the story of God working in our lives through Jesus Christ.

In the Bible we read of several men of God who had a story to tell. Some may have been reluctant; others may have been more bold. Each spread the word through their lives and words.

Jonah was a reluctant witness. God had sent him to Nineveh, but he decided to go to Tarshish. He went the opposite direction. He had to be persuaded with the help of the giant fish that swallowed him. After he was back on dry land, he went to share his story with a greater eagerness than before. When he made it to Nineveh, he certainly had a story to tell. It was made the more compelling by his sojourn in the belly of the whale. His story initiated a great revival in Nineveh. Perhaps his story meant more to the Ninevites, when they realized that he came despite his great reluctance.

There were many prophets sent by God to warn the people of Israel. Some went more readily than others. Some had a deeper and more compelling message than others. Some had to face extraordinary opposition. Despite the forces opposed to them, they told their stories. These stories were not always pleasant. Many were dark and foreboding warnings of judgment and punishment that awaited those who did not conform to the paths that God had set before them.

Strong prophets like Elijah and Elisha, at times, were afraid of the power of their opposition. Especially when they must stand before kings and queens, they could feel their weakness. Despite the supposed, apparent strength of those opposed to them, they were able to stand and tell the message that God had given them. Their messages of judgment and punishment were not easy to speak, but they were the messages that God knew was the best for His straying, chosen people.

A message of warning is never a pleasant message. Nevertheless, that type of message is just as necessary as the messages of promises and blessings. Without the warnings that bring about self-

examination, repentance and change, there will be no promised blessings. The blessings come after the response to God's warning. The warning, itself, is a blessing in disguise. Without the warning there would be no needed change, so there would be no later blessings to be enjoyed.

We may have many fears and doubts that would sidetrack us from telling our story. Through word, appearance and deed, we may convey the story that God wants told. He wants us to tell a dying world that there is hope for each one. That hope is centered in Jesus Christ. He came to die, to be buried, to resurrect and to ascend into Heaven for the forgiveness of the sins that separate us from God. Because of His work in our behalf we can be separated unto God instead of being separated from Him.

Tell your story. Whether eager or reluctant, you may make a difference in someone's life.

M.C.Cook

1997 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1997 Issue

Sunday P.M. (continued)

Bro. Jim Meyers. Romans 12:1-2. The Church is a people separated from the world. There is a challenge to us in these words. Giving of our lives to the Lord and not to this world. If our minds are of this world, it grieves God. A friend of the world is an enemy of God. "Come out from the world." Satan tries to get us off the straight and narrow way. Traditions have a great role. Do not follow men, because they sometimes have made mistakes. Look to God's Word as the final truth to follow. The Church must be separated from the world. We are a separate people, followers of God. Separation from the world is living true to God. Someday, God is going to separate His people from the world. We are a chosen people separated from the world. We are a special people unto God. Abstain from the sins of the world. Be separated from this world. We need to take our stand and follow Christ. We also need to "come out from among them." Who is Lord and Master of your life? Be ready to meet the Heavenly Father. Live true and faithful to Him and His Holy Word.

Bro. Marlin Marks closed. Hebrews 11:13. Separate ourselves from the world. Accept God and His teachings and be ready to leave this world.

Sunday Evening.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer opened. The Church needs to be a separate people. The light we show, comes from our heart. The body of Christ creates a new life in us when we give our lives to Christ, and follow His teachings.

Bro. Mark Andrews. Genesis 32. Jacob Meeting the Angel. Jacob wrestled with the angel. The angel of God injured Jacob. Jacob met God face to face. Jacob's name was changed to Israel by the Lord. Serve the Lord during your life. You may get a disease during your life, or have an accident. Then comes a time you will meet God face to face. In this situation, what will you do? There may come a time you may meet God face to face unexpectedly. Young people, we have a God to serve. There is more than one way to meet God face to face. You have two decisions to make to serve the Lord, or reject Him. What shall we give in exchange for our soul? When the Spirit of God works in your heart, you meet God face to face. Jesus said, "Seek and ye shall find." Jesus came to save the world. He can save you if you accept Him.

Bro. Fred Pifer closed. Never give up. You have come to years. You should make a decision. Jesus was in the flesh on this earth at one time. He came so we can be saved if we come to Him.

Monday Morning Worship.

Bro. William Carpenter. Psalms 2. We are in constant danger in this corrupt world. God is with us and can help protect us. Moses heard many complaints of his people. God was with him and helped him lead his people. The Bible is the true Word of God. Jesus said, "I will come again and receive you unto myself."

Monday A.M.

Bro. David Aungst opened. Luke 17:5-11. We are in a spiritual warfare. People are lovers of things rather than God. We should reverence God. So many times we do not reverence God as we should. We should fear God more. This would help our Church. Do we fear God? Who are we living for? We are building our lives to see

Christ. Satan tries to destroy our Church. Keep on fighting for the faith in Christ. Try to be stronger in the future to work in the Church for Christ.

Bro. Philip Franklin lead Bible Study. Psalms 37. Trust in the Lord.

Bro. Len Wertz. Hosea. We must stay true to God. Is there any way we can find peace? There is no other way, but to follow Christ. Do you look forward to meeting Him? All the things we see outside is nothing, compared to our Heavenly home. Satan is playing games with us. Do not let him deceive you. Any nation that leaves God has no power. We must be a Church set on the teachings of God. Stay close to God. We can not feel at home in the world. Our home is in Jesus Christ. If we sin as they did in Hosea, we will have judgment brought on us by God. We dare not forget to follow God and His teachings. The house of God should never be shut down. In less than fifty-eight years, America has let more sin come in. Many people are not serving God. The freedom we have today is failing us because many in America are failing to worship our Heavenly Father. In our service for the Lord, we must have correction, if we are failing in some way. We must keep our Church true to Christ. Today we have a greater need to have God in us than we have ever had before. What lies ahead of us? This is the bright side on which to live as that little separated people living wholly for Christ, ready to meet Him. God will be with us. Live in the light of God.

Bro. Gordon Jamison closed. There is peace in our minds when we follow Christ.

Monday P.M.

Bro. Fred Johnson opened. Luke 13:1-9. Does the Lord speak unto us? Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish. He is a just God. Excuses to God will not be accepted.

Bro. Jason Reed. Matthew 5:13-15. What is the purpose of a Church? It's a soul-saving station. How do we know how to make decisions? We are the salt of the earth. Anabaptists believed in the great commandments of Jesus. Salt was preserving. Anabaptists believed they were the salt of the earth. Anabaptists saw they needed to help the people in many ways in this world's kingdom. What is the purpose of the Church? (Luke 19:20). The parable of the talents.

What are we doing with the talents God gave us? "He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, unto him it is sin. Go unto all the world and teach the Gospel." God's people are called out to teach the people about Christ. Do the will of the Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16). "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Bro. David Rice. We need to be a balanced candlestick on a hill. Numbers 3 and II Samuel 6. Cast all our cares upon God and He will help us. The good Samaritan stopped and helped the man lying on the road side. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and listened to Jesus. She had the mind of Christ's teachings. Do not get out of God's care. Keep working for Him to gain eternal life. The rich man thought more of his riches and would not give them up. He stopped working for God, and later missed his Eternal Home. Backing up in life means to say I am sorry. God designed us to take up His yoke and follow Him. Trying our faith works patience in us. Jesus said, "Come unto me and I will give you rest, Take my yoke upon you and ye shall have rest."

Bro. Dean Shaffer closed. The spirit of God can help us in our problems.

To Be Continued
Sister Alice Heisey

CARING AND SHARING

Am I really a caring person?

If we really care, we will be found sharing of ourselves and the abundant blessings God has given us. There are so many needs, all kinds of needs, both temporal and spiritual, which each of us can help supply. We should be willing and eager to share the love of Christ that we feel within, to all of those who have never experienced it. He loved, He cared and died for all.

Christ, when He lived among us, left us that real example of true love and concern. He was always sharing. He was a servant to all, healing, comforting, blessing, and forgiving. Luke 7:13, "And when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not." This widow's only son had died. Jesus touched this

young man. He arose and began to speak. He delivered him to his mother. Jesus cared. He shared of His great power. He opened blind eyes, made the lame to walk and wept with them that wept.

Do we care? Perhaps we often close our eyes to the need of others. Matt. 25:43, "I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not." The priest and the Levite carelessly passed by the poor, wounded man. We are glad the story did not end there. The good Samaritan—he did care and he did share.

Gal. 5:14, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Phil. 2:4, "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." Really caring for others.

We so often miss real opportunities and rich blessings in our lives by not really caring and not sharing. Heb. 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

It seems caring for others is slipping from many of God's children's lives. We need to sing again the words of that old song together, "Help Somebody Today."

Look around you. Find someone in need—there are many. Many are waiting for a kind loving word—can you supply it? Many have burdens too heavy to bear—can we lighten the load? Some are discouraged and weary in heart—can we give a few encouraging words? Let us help somebody today!

Perhaps we should not always be looking for ways to get, but start looking for ways to **give** and **share**.

Humbly submitted,
Brother Herman Jamison

DIVIDED AFFECTIONS

Daniel 5:28, "...Thy kingdom is divided..."

James 1:8, "A doubleminded man is unstable in all his ways."

Abraham Lincoln said a house divided against itself cannot stand.

What kind of loyal Christian would you be if you attended church, listened faithfully to the preaching, but went down the street and gave your offering to an entirely different church?

We must search the scriptures and fellowship with believers who follow the scriptures. My pilgrimage to the Dunkard Brethren was a result of a diligent search to find a group who presently and historically have followed the precepts set forth in the Word as closely as possible. It is also the result of a DESIRE to fellowship with those of like precious faith.

My topic has to do with divided affections. Although it is not wrong to occasionally fellowship with those similar in belief to ourselves, we must question the practice of acknowledging groups that no longer strive to serve Him Biblically.

We must likewise be careful in regard to whom we go for our knowledge of the Scriptures. An example would be quoting from prominent preachers. Most "evangelical" preachers of our day believe that divorce and remarriage are all right. Most do not believe in any of the scriptural precepts that the real church has held to since Pentecost. We should not give heed to these seducing spirits.

We also hear a lot of bellyaching about the church not growing. We need to be concerned about growth. We need to be concerned about seeking out and nurturing new members. In order for the church to grow, the existing members must be there, not somewhere else. In conversation with a young man in a similar church, he told me that during the summer his church's attendance is cut in half due to "week-end camping." Sure, these campers have worship services on the Lord's Day, (often with guitars and portable keyboards) but we have to wonder why this is done. Could it be that these folks are looking for a less "restrictive" way to worship?

The modern-day seminars, often having to do with prophecy, attract a lot of people who would be better off if they stayed at their own church on the Lord's Day. These seminars often bring more confusion than anything else. If we think the church is missing something it is better to discuss it with the Brethren than to take off somewhere else on the Lord's Day. If we work together, and stay together, the Lord will be glorified.

There has never been a greater need for prayer warriors in the

church. We need to pray that our leaders stay true to the Word. We need to pray that our unity is unaffected. Ephesians 4:3 says, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Endeavoring. This word indicates that a lot of effort is involved.

Many people I have talked to say that the Dunkard Church has the proper Biblical Doctrine. May we ever keep it. May we do all we can to insure it. You have heard the old adage, Why worry when you can pray. We can amend it by asking, Why complain when you can pray.

Blest be the dear uniting love,
That will not let us part;
Our bodies may far off remove,
We still are one in heart.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE GOODNESS OF THE LORD

Joshua 21:43-45, "And the LORD gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the LORD gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers; and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

In the book of Genesis, God made a covenant with Abraham. In chapter 17: 7-8, we read, "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

God made an everlasting covenant to be a God to the seed of Abraham. Along with this He made a covenant to give unto Israel all the land of Caanan for an everlasting possession. In the book of Joshua, we find that God kept His promise and gave unto Israel all the land which He swore to give unto their fathers. This was not

because Israel was always faithful, but because of the goodness of God. There was only one condition that Israel had to meet. That the LORD would be a God unto them. The term "a God" did not imply that other gods could be included in their worship. For we read in Exodus 20:5, "...for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God,..."

God has never promised the Church earthly possessions, although through His goodness many of His people have prospered. We have spiritual blessings that have no comparison with earthly goods. We have the divine privilege of being a part of God's kingdom on earth.

In addition to the land, Israel was given rest round about. Praise God we have rest in the Lord. When trials and tribulations beset us, we have rest in the goodness of the Lord. When sickness makes our bodies weak, God, in His goodness, sometimes sees fit to heal us. Other times we can have the peace and strength we need to bear the suffering. We can rejoice that the goodness of the Lord is ours even when the circumstances seem to indicate otherwise. For even as with Israel, of whom it is said, "there stood not a man of all their enemies before them," the goodness of the Lord is our continual strength. "The LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand," but Scripture clearly teaches that battles had to be fought. Even so the Christian has to wrestle with Satan, sin and bodily discomforts throughout their life. The goodness of the Lord sustains us through it all.

We can be assured that when God has promised something it will come to pass. "...there failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass."

God's dealing with the earthly nation of Israel surely demonstrates His goodness. Despite the goodness of the Lord, the nation of Israel was a rebellious nation. Because of this the nation of Israel was under Roman rule by the time God sent the ultimate demonstration of His goodness, the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave Israel prophetic guidance concerning the arrival of His Son. Unbelief and rebellion blinded the eyes of most. A few, like Simeon and Anna, were looking for the Messiah and recognized Him in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is our understanding that the earthly nation of Israel lost the covenant God made with them. That it was "everlasting" was contin-

gent upon the condition that God was to be their only point of worship. This meant acceptance of God the Son when He was fully revealed. God never broke His covenant with the nation of Israel. In His goodness He fulfilled His promise in a greater way through the Lord Jesus Christ. The first Christians and the first leaders of the Church were Jews, or Israelites.

Through the goodness of the Lord He also gave unto the Church the blessed Holy Spirit. Thus the Holy Trinity was fully revealed and "all came to pass."

Yet there awaits those who have the covenant of the Lord and have experienced His goodness a final glorious experience. When we shall possess the "land of Canaan." We believe the ultimate understanding of this is our home in Heaven. Then all our enemies will be subdued. We will be in perfect rest. There will fail not one good thing. We will be forever in the presence of our Lord. All because of His goodness. Glory! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!!

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

ARE YOU READY?

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke 12:40. I would like to share with you, my brothers and sisters, the experience I had with the passing of my grandmother. She had told us she would die soon. Her main concern was to get us prepared for her death. She told us how she wanted her funeral arrangements. In the Navajo belief, you are not to speak about your death. But my grandma did not believe the Navajo way. She was a Christian.

At the hospital, my family and I stayed by her bedside day and night. The doctors told us she was stable. My mother decided that it would be a good time to get a little rest. I came home and went to bed thinking I would see her in the morning. My aunt woke me up at five o'clock and told me grandma had died thirty minutes earlier.

Jesus tells us to be ready for His coming. The Bible tells us in Luke to be ready. Jesus says in John 14:3b, "I will come again." He

sent His Holy Spirit to help us be ready for His second coming. Jesus gave us commandments to follow in order to be received in Heaven. He says to get rid of all traditions and follow Him only.

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." 1 Thessalonians 5:2. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man..." Matthew 24:36a. I was fast asleep that morning not knowing that my grandmother was going to die. And so it is that the Lord will come when we think not. We may never see tomorrow, so let us be ready at all times. May the Lord bless you all.

Brother Alan Trujillo
HCR 79 Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013-9701

AND NOW ABIDETH CHARITY OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

Lev. 19:18, "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the Lord." God goes even farther in verse 34 where he says, "But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."

Read Matt. 5:43-48 and Luke 6:27-36. Do you do more than the Publicans and sinners?

John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 15:12-13, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Is it possible? Only with a great measure of His Holy Spirit. We can lay down our life by simply giving up our own selfish will, for the benefit of others.

Rom. 12:9-10, "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one

to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" And Peter also instructs us that our love be sincere. I Pet. 1:22, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

Rom. 13:8-10, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." See also Matt. 22:36-40 and Gal. 5:13-15.

II Cor. 8:7-8, "Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love."

Eph. 4:1-2, "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;"

Phil. 1:9, "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment."

Phil. 2:1-4, "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies. Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

I Thess. 3:12-13, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

I Thess. 5:12-13, "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

See Eph. 5:25, Col. 3:19 and Titus 2:4.

The words of Heb. 6:10 give us consolation and hope. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

James 2:8, "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"

I Pet. 3:8, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"

I John 3:11, "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

I John 3:23-24, "And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Lord help me live from day to day
In such a self forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for others

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I'd do for you
Must needs be done for others.

Let self be crucified and slain
And buried deep; and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again
Unless to live for others.

And when on earth my work is done

And my new work in heaven's begun
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others
Let this my motto be
Help me to live for others
That I might live like thee.

That our love for one another may abound more and more as we strive to be more like Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. This is the prayer of your unworthy servant.

Brother William Carpenter

GROWTH

Dear Fellow Believers,

I think we all share the opinion that we would like to see growth in our Church.

If the readers of the Bible Monitor were to submit articles detailing their suggestions for Church growth, the following would be my suggestions.

Have a series of meetings on God's priority to us. Here is my list of priorities.

Number one — He loves you enough to send His Son for a plan offering everlasting life. He took the place of the animal sacrifices.

Number two — He blesses us daily with food, clothing, shelter, health and anything necessary for life on earth and a spirit for comfort.

For our priorities to Him.

Number one — Our love for Him. How do we show it? "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Number two — Love your neighbor as yourself.

Studying to find out what He says is important. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in

thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

But the other things observed. He says happy are ye if you know and do these things.

I have observed the apathy and falsehoods in churches today and have written about them. We should try to show the good in the Bible. We should be slow to criticize other's faults. God will judge them in His own time.

All church growth should be considered without sacrificing the principles of the Bible. Did He not say that if I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me. Do we need any more man made things?

Lets hear suggestions.

Brother Walter C. Myers

FAITH REPENTANCE BAPTISM

In order to become a child of God there are certain things required of us to obtain the promises. Read Matt. 19:17, "...if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." It is true, Christ died for all humanity by taking upon Himself the sins of the world, but it is not until we comply with His agreement that the promises or agreement is made binding. It is the same with all His gifts. Take water for instance. The water is free whether we use it or not. The water is still there in the same amount. In order to use it we must carry, pump or hook up to the system in order to get it where we can use it. That costs effort, and usually money. When I wrote the article, ALL FREE. for the Bible Monitor some time ago, a woman told me that she knows that water is not free because she has to pay for hers (she uses city water). I explained that God supplies the water free, whether we use it or not. For us to use it, we have our part to do. So we have to pay to get the water where we can use it. Whether we carry the water, hook up a pump, or join the city system it costs money even though the water is free.

When we want to become a child of God and inherit the promises laid up for us eternally, we must accept the agreement before the agreement is valid. Christ said ye are my disciples "if ye keep my

commandments." In law, in marriage, in any agreement it takes at least two parties to make a binding agreement. So, also in conversion.

First we must realize there is a God, Creator of all things. We must believe that He has a Son, who came from Heaven, brought a saving Gospel and shed His blood on Calvary's cross for a sin sick world. He did this to save mankind from an everlasting fire and brimstone punishment. He did this to redeem them unto Himself to a glorious place, He is preparing for us called Heaven. There we will be spending eternity with our Creator. When we realize these truths and are convinced of them, faith is born. The Holy Spirit becomes our constant companion to lead us into the ways of all truth. He continues to show us how dirty and evil our lives have been and that we will be lost eternally should death overtake without the redemption of Christ's blood.

So what must we do? First we must get on our knees, repent and pour out our hearts to God in tears and promise to change our lives and destiny course toward Heaven. Repentance does not stop there. To fully complete our repentance we go to our fellowman whom we have wronged and confess our sin. If we have lied, we must make it right and tell the truth. If we have fraudulently cheated someone, we must reimburse them, perhaps even double. Whatever sin or wrong we have committed, we must make it right in so far as we can. Often we cannot do this because the one we have wronged cannot be reached, but I feel sure the Lord will forgive a repentant heart.

I kept overnight tourists in my house for some years. I will never forget one family of four who came in late one night and went directly to their room where they had family worship before retiring. Next morning the man told me a little of his life history. He was a desperate alcoholic at one time. The family had nothing to live on because of his habit. He was dying of alcoholism. The doctor had given him two months to live. He knew his soul was in a lost condition. He got out his mother's Bible, got down on his knees by the bedside. He read and prayed for four days. The Lord heard his prayer, and filled his soul with rejoicing. He jumped to his feet and decided to go first to his old drinking saloon and tell his old drunken friends about his release from alcoholic bondage and God's forgiveness. He thought

they would be glad to do likewise. But sad to say, they would not hear him nor want to know anything more about his conversion. Sad to say, this is often the result when people are bound in Satan's nets. He kept praising God. He was so happy. He did not die. I could tell that family of four had great love and concern for each other. He became a minister of the Gospel. At that time, he was on a journey to see his alcoholic brother who was dying of alcoholism, in hopes that he could inspire him to follow his footsteps while he had the opportunity. I never heard the results of that trip. I hope they were successful.

God also operates in numbers, particularly in threes, fives, and sevens. The Godhead being three, Father Son and Holy Spirit; faith, hope and charity; body, mind and soul; so also faith, repentance and baptism.

Baptism is the connecting link between conversion and a life of works. It is the last of conversion because baptism seals the agreement and starts us into proper works. If we fail in our first works we may be inclined to shorten the other works He has given us to do. Christ was sinless, but He was baptized of John in Jordan River. It was not to wash away His sins because He had none. It was as an example to sinful man to do likewise in following our Redeemer. Baptism is referred to as our second birth. Nothing is born of anything smaller than it is. Much running water would indicate thorough cleansing, complete cleansing of the whole person, body, mind and soul, all completely covered. That water courses on its journey to the ocean to be cast into the depths of the sea of God's forgetfulness and no longer charged to our account. We should seek a complete washing of the Spirit and complete outward washing of the water which sometimes indicates the Holy Spirit in Scripture. I firmly believe water and Spirit are both very essential in holy baptism.

Like the egg, which is composed of shell, white, and yolk, three different parts, but yet one whole egg. This may be likened to Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, yet one Godhead. Matt. 28:19 tells us how to baptize. The first dip into the water is in the name of the Father, the second dip is in the name of the Son, third is in the name of the Holy Spirit. These three constitute one baptism in the likeness of His death when He bowed His head and gave up the ghost.

Matt. 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:" (and then the promise) "and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Notice that no blessing is added if the instructions are not followed. Take note that when the Phillipian jailer cried out when he realized his need of Christ, "What must I do to be saved?" The Apostle Paul answered in Acts 16:29-34. Please read Rom. 6, Mark 16:16, Eph. 4:5. Philip also baptized the Ethiopian eunuch at his request in much water. Acts 8:36. Immersion represents the burial of the old man of sin and the resurrection of the new man in Christ Jesus.

History tells us that all churches practiced immersion baptism until the dark ages when the Christians were driven underground particularly into the catacombs of Rome, Italy during the Christian's persecution of the dark ages for 1200 years approximately where there was not enough water to submerge a human being.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder
6159 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550

SELF EXAMINATION

I Cor. 11:28, "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." How often do we examine our lives? Once or twice a year at Lovefeast service? I feel I need to examine my life every day. Are we keeping our promises and our vows? There are marriage vows, vows to the church and vows to God. What for job are we doing?

There is a story of a little boy that went into a grocery store to make a phone call. The phone was in the rear of the store so the owner could hear the one side of the conversation. The boy said, "Mister do you need any help?" It was quiet for a while then the boy said, "Mister are you sure you don't need any help?" When the boy went to leave the owner said to him, "Don't be discouraged, there's plenty other places to get a job." The little boy said, "I'm not looking for a job. That was my boss. I was just checking up on myself."

Psalms 26:2, "Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."

II Cor. 13:5, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

It would be nice if we could call our Master to see what for job we are doing. But we won't find out until pay day. Will we hear the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Brother Nelson Myers

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1937

COVENANTS

Ida M. Helm

"Hear the word of the Lord, ye scornful men, that rule the people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, we have made a covenant with death, and with hell we are at agreement, when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves." (Isa. 29:14-15.)

These men of Judah, though they were of God's chosen people, they were spiritually lulled to false security, and with careless confidence they boasted of their supposed covenant with death and agreement with hell that they believed would save them when the overflowing scourge should pass through. They were ignorant of the fact that the covenanted people of God are the only ones that have a covenant with death and are safe from the Destroyer.

These men mocked the prophets that God sent to warn them and plead with them to turn to God. They erred in vision and were drunk when engaged in the sacred, priestly duties of their office. God sent Isaiah to tell them that God will teach them that He means what He says, by men of strange lips and of another tongue. They were not safe from the ravages of the host of the Assyrian army. Egypt could not save them.

These men of Judah were politicians, they were seeking an alliance with Egypt instead of putting their trust implicitly in God. They

thought by their policy they had bought off death and hades. They thought they had with their own ingenuity made themselves a secure refuge in Egypt. It is not by intrigue, nor by might, nor by power and it is not by money, nor by politics, nor by labor unions nor any worldly organization that we shall triumph over sin and Satan but it is by the Spirit of Almighty God.

Hear God's voice speaking to these men of Judah, "Your covenant with death shall be disannulled and your agreement with hell shall not stand, when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it." (Isa. 28:14.)

Dismay and disappointment will come to them and they will fall before the overflowing scourge.

"Though Judah offer sacrifices year after year God will not accept them, there shall be heaviness and sorrow, and thou shalt speak out of the ground." (Isa. 29:4.)

The United States can never buy back industrial and economical peace, happiness and prosperity with the proceeds of the sale of whisky and its attendant evils. Their agreement with sin can not prosper. We must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and God will add the material blessings needed. The refuge of lies and falsehood under which the men of Judah hid themselves, God said, "shall be swept away and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." (Isa. 28:17.) So it will be with men who favor whisky.

Isa. 44:20 tells us of a man that feedeth on ashes; a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he can not deliver his soul, nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand? A deceived heart. He carries a lie concealed in the right hand. God would hold the right hand and lead the man in paths of righteousness, but the hand is preoccupied, and with a lie he shuts himself from contact with God and ignores the blood covenant Jesus came to offer man, so he blunders on and finally sinks beneath the load of his own sins.

Have I a sure covenant with God? Our religion may be only in feeling, or in words, or in outward acts of devotion. It may not include separation from the world. There may be no self-denying acts of love for God. The life may not be growing more Christ-like. The pleasures of sin and the vain glory of life may separate me from God and though I call myself a Christian, and I may say, I have a cov-

enant with God, that claim is a lie in my right hand, the hand by which God is seeking to lead me but cannot because of the lie.

Jesus says, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:8-9.) The heart is deceived. God is not mocked, God made a covenant with Noah, and every time we see the rainbow we think of God's truth and faithfulness.

Let us turn our attention to the covenant God's Son Jesus made for mankind. The everlasting covenant, sealed with His own life blood. Peter in one of his wonderful sermon referring to the covenant the Jews inherited declared, "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, and in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed." (Acts 3:25.)

This old covenant was ratified many times with Abraham, with Isaac, with Jacob, with Moses, with David. God has always been faithful in all His covenants. It may be possible that I am not conforming to modern theology by talking about God's covenant to man. Any way we hear very little said about it, but our forefathers talked and wrote a great deal about it. They realized something of the wonderful profound meaning contained in it. God has given us a plan by which He binds Himself and which we are invited to accept, and in which we may securely rest.

The old covenant in the tabernacle with its blood of bulls and goats and heifers, and birds is a type of heaven where God has His dwelling place. It's a shadow of something better. It is a type of Christ, the Redeemer, the God-man who is the meeting place between God and man. It is a type of the communion the Christian has with the Savior of the world. Jesus our great High Priest by virtue of the blood sacrifice He made once for all is in heaven.

Turn to Hebrews 9:22-24, "Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven

itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." With his own blood "Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." (Heb. 8:5.) There was only one true tabernacle, only one way to make it.

There can be only one true temple and its service must be just as God planned. There was only one ark in Noah's day to save the people and the ark was built exactly as God designed. The one tabernacle in the wilderness and the one temple in Jerusalem were types of something better. They were but the shadow, the crucified, resurrected Jesus is the substance. In His blood shed on Calvary He has given us the new covenant, the one covenant in Jesus blood.

Heb. 13:20 says, "Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

This refers to Jesus' entrance into the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood of the everlasting covenant and our Lord's exaltation as head over the family of God. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Ephesians 4:5.)

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling." (Eph. 4:4.)

Each member of Christ's church, the one body is united to Christ, the one Head by one faith and one baptism. There is only one way to be saved for Jews and Gentile, red or yellow, black or white, all come under the one blood covenant in respect to their union with Christ. Jesus gave one plan for all. The humanity of our Redeemer is the basis of His work of atonement, of intercession and of reconciliation. He is the pattern of the Christian's life, the life that proclaims, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Gal. 2:20.)

The Jew's religion had its sort of pardon under the blood of the old covenant. There was the blood of animal sacrifices in which there was the remembrance of sins every year. There was only

enough efficacy in the Jewish animal sacrificial blood to keep alive the memory of sin. The sacrificial blood of Christ is of sufficient efficacy to wash away sin and to abolish the awful penalty of sin.

All the promises of the gospel of Christ rest in the covenant made in the atoning blood of Christ, and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

We accept Christ and His offered pardon when in holy baptism we follow Him into the water there to be thrice immersed in one baptism, into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We promise to renounce Satan with all his pernicious ways, we promise to follow Jesus in all things and be faithful until death. We are not in covenant relation with the Trine God, three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One God.

"Oh Lamb of God, thy precious blood
Will never lose its power;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Are saved to sin no more."

OBITUARY

CHARLES F. MARKS

Bro. Charles F. Marks, 84, of Loganville, Pennsylvania went home to Heaven on Wednesday, June 25, 1997

Born June 27, 1912, in York Township, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Daniel K. and Sadie F. Marks. His wife, Beulah, preceded him in death in 1989.

Bro. Marks accepted the Lord and was baptized in 1922 at an early age in the Church of the Brethren. Later, he became a member of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church where he served as a deacon for over forty years.

He is survived by a son, Raymond R. Marks of Spring Grove, Pennsylvania; a daughter, Mary A. King of Collegeville, Pennsylvania; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Paul Marks, Winterstown, Pennsylvania and Ervin Marks, Hellam Township, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were conducted in the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church on Saturday, June 28, with Elder Jacob Ness officiating. Interment was in the Dunkard Brethren Cemetery, Shrewsbury.

Grandsons, Raymond Marks, Jr., Phillip and David Marks, Michael and Brian King and great grandson, Raymond Marks, III, served as pall bearers.

We sincerely thank everyone for the many prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy and love which have been shown to us.

The Family of Charles Marks

NEWS ITEMS

THE NEW BIBLE MONITOR

You now hold in your hand the new BIBLE MONITOR. As directed by the 1997 General Conference, the BIBLE MONITOR will now appear once a month. Each issue will have 32 pages instead of 16 pages, so the total number of pages will remain the same. This change will require that articles and new items for a particular issue be in the Editor's hands approximately two months before that issue.

CORRECTION

The Editor has erred. The correct telephone area code for Brethren Robert Carpenter, Lloyd Lorenz, Harley Rush and Mike Wray is 765 not 756 as printed in the August 1, 1997, issue. We hope none have been greatly inconvenienced by this error.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing the West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their revivals with evangelist, Bro. Mark Andrews from Grandview, Missouri. They are to start Friday, September 19 and go through September 28. Pray for these meetings that each one who comes will have a revival in their heart. All are cordially invited to attend.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Brother Gordon Jamison from Quinter, Kansas will be joining us to conduct revival services beginning Monday evening, September 29, and ending with the Lovefeast celebration on Sunday evening, October 5. Your prayers/presence would be inspiring and encouraging to us during these efforts.

Sister Dorcas Shelly, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation is planning a Harvest Meeting on October 5 at our Sunday Morning service. We welcome all to come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Home Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meeting, October 5 through 12, with Bro. Wayne Burgess as our evangelist.

We extend a hearty welcome to all who can come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Blanche Newman, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Revival, October 12 through 19 with Bro. Galen Shelly as Evangelist. Lovefeast Services will be the 18th at 2:00 P.M. and 7 P.M. You are all welcome to these services.

On November 9 a Harvest Meeting is planned. Bro. Phil Gish will be the Speaker. Come and enjoy the day with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, the Dayton Congregation is looking forward to a weekend Revival Meeting beginning on October 15 through October 19, 1997.

The Lord willing Brother Kenny Wilkerson of the Bethel, Pennsylvania Congregation will be our evangelist. Services 7:30 P.M. weekdays. The Examination Service begins at 4:00 P.M., Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 18, 1997.

We invite any and all to come and be with us. Also please remember our little number in prayer that we might all be touched and drawn closer to the Lord and Saviour.

Our prayer to all, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Sister Lizetta Bittinger, Cor.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR OCTOBER 1997**

October 5 - The Law: A Shadow - Hebrews 10:1-18.

1. What are the "Good things to come" that were only a shadow under the Law?
2. Christ "Hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." Explain.

October 12 - A New And Living Way - Hebrews 10:19-29.

1. To what should we provoke one another?
2. Explain the grace of God in light of willful sin by a believer.

October 19 - God Will Repay - Hebrews 10:30-39.

1. Explain the connection of patience and faith in receiving God's Promises.
2. What might cause some to "draw back"? What is the final end of "drawing back"?

October 26 - Godly Faith - Hebrews 11:1-12.

1. Which takes more faith to believe; God's Word about creation or man's theories about evolution?
2. Why did Noah choose to believe God and build the ark while almost all the other people in the world chose not to believe God's warning?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1997

October 5 - Sources Of Temptation - Gen. 3:1-6, Matt. 4:1-11, Eph. 6:11.

1. Compare/contrast the response of Jesus Christ to temptation with the response of Adam and Eve (humanity) to temptation.
2. How should followers of Jesus Christ respond to temptation?

October 12 - Cross Bearing - Matt. 10:38, 11:28-30, Luke 14:26-27.

1. How can Jesus speak about cross bearing and taking His yoke upon us as believers and say "I will give you rest"?
2. What crosses may we have to bear as followers of Jesus?

October 19 - Possessions - Matt. 6:19-21, Luke 12:15-21.

1. Why is it not possible to lay up for ourselves treasures upon earth and have our heart in Heaven?
2. Explain the differences between needs, wants, and covetousness.

October 26 - The House On A Rock - Matt. 7:24-29, Luke 6:46-49.

1. Why is hearing the words of Jesus not enough?
2. Who is the rock that our Spiritual House must be built upon?

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Road
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Road
Englewood, OH 45322

Mike Wray, Secretary
R.5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Ray Stuber
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, PA 17356

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St.John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Paul Nell
Woodland Drive
R6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, PA 17403
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
R 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Rudy Shaffer, Chairman
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Ray R.Reed, Secretary
302 Percival
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Mark Andrews, Treasurer
24407 South Overfelt Road
Peculiar, MO 64078

Haines Printing Company
14 E. Main St.
North East, PA 16428

Forward and Address Correction Requested

ISS

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #157
North East, PA



Elam Moss
4254 Richmond Palestine Rd
New Madison OH 45346-9608

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

OCTOBER, 1997

NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I'LL BE A SUNBEAM

Jesus wants me for a sunbeam,
To shine for Him each day;
In ev'ry way try to please Him
At home, at school, at play.

Jesus wants me to be loving,
And kind to all I see;
Showing how pleasant and happy
His little one can be.

I will ask Jesus to help me
To keep my heart from sin;
Ever reflecting His goodness,
And always shine for Him.

I'll be a sunbeam for Jesus;
I can if I but try;
Serving Him moment by moment,
Then live with Him on high.

-Nellie Talbot

TALENTS

Jesus used many parables to teach Spiritual truths. The educated and aristocratic Spiritual leaders of the Jews would not listen to Him. The common people were glad to hear Him. They were ignored and looked down upon by the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests. Jesus spoke to them of homely things they could grasp easily. He did not give these illustrations to merely be telling stories. These stories had a purpose. They were designed to use common, everyday events and objects to illustrate deeper Spiritual truths.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus speaks of the talents distributed to various men and how each used what he had been given. This story also applies to us today.

The talents may be looked at in two different ways. A talent was a measure of silver. It has been estimated that a talent of silver would be worth approximately sixteen hundred dollars. This was not a small sum of money that was entrusted to these servants. A talent may be considered the ability that each has been given. It is easy to realize that individuals have been given varying amounts of talents. There are many talents that are necessary in a full life. Not all people have the same talents, nor in the same degree. Some people obviously are endowed with far more talents than others. However those who have even one should be thankful to have been entrusted with that one. The best way to show thanks for that talent is to use it. Because we were not endowed with all talents does not mean that

THE BIBLE MONITOR**OCTOBER, 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethern Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 14 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor; R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362.

MARLIN MARKS, Associate Editor; 3027 Acorn Lane, Red Lion, PA 17356.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

we should not fully use the talent we do have.

The Lord of these servants was preparing to go on a long journey as he parceled out these talents to his most trusted servants. He wanted them to use wisely what he gave them. He did not want it wasted. He wanted it increased by the time he returned. This is very much like our Lord. Jesus left this Earth for His Heavenly Abode nearly two thousand years ago. He, too, has promised to return. He has left with each of His followers certain gifts, talents and abilities. Some have been given more than others. He expects that none would be wasted. He wishes that all could increase what they have been given.

The first servant was given five talents. His master rightly discerned that here was a man who would make good use of what he would be given. His faith in this man was rewarded. He went out energetically and began to deal with the five talents. He bought, sold and traded until he had doubled his money. When a man is willing to use the talents that he has been given, he will increase his supply.

The second servant was not blessed as abundantly as the first. He was given two talents. Rather than complain about it, he went to work and doubled his money. He increased his holdings by as large a percentage as the first servant. He did what he could with what he had been given.

The third servant was given one talent. Instead of being thankful for what he was given, he pined for what he had not been given. He was a complainer. He was sure that life was not fair. He was sure God was prejudiced against him. He knew he was as deserving as the other two. He did not understand why the Lord had not intrusted him with more. His response was to dig a hole and bury that talent. If he could not have more, then he was not going to waste his time using that one talent. By burying his talent he was in danger of losing what he did have. The least this servant could have done was to invest his money in a savings account, so he could have gained some interest on his money.

As promised the Master did return. They may each have thought that he would never return, but he did. Many wonder if Jesus is going to return. He has promised to come again. He will keep His promise. He will return. It may not be when men would prefer. It may not be when they predict it will be. Nevertheless, He will return.

When the Master did return each had to give an account of how each had used his talent. He commended the first for his profitable increase. He also praised the second servant for using wisely the talents that he had been given. He very severely censured the last servant for the lack of use of his talent. He took that one talent away from the slothful servant and gave it to the one with ten. Those who handle the Lord's talents with complaint, laziness and disdain will end up losing even that which they do have. He was cast into outer darkness which would be a fair warning to all who would misuse, abuse or ignore the talents that they have been given by the Lord.

Are you fully using the talents that the Lord has given you, whether they be few or many?

M.C.Cook

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

"Very Tempting"

We routinely pray, "Lead us not into temptation..." But what do we mean when we pray these words?

To tempt is to persuade someone to do something evil or unwise. Many times the temptation comes with the promise of pleasure or gain. Temptation always involves what the tempted considers "gain" yet with it a little warning signal appearing that says, "Maybe I shouldn't." This signal comes from our God given conscience.

Even Jesus was tempted. He possessed powers far superior to those of mortal man. He had the power to heal, to alter natural laws yet He was tempted. Yet how else could He identify or even empathize with our propensity to give in to temptation. Paul says in Hebrews that He understood our weaknesses because He shared our temptations.

Matthew contains the account of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John. It was at that time the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and God spoke from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." This marked the beginning of His public ministry and was one of the highest points in His life. He was immediately subjected to the severe tests about which we read in Luke, chapter 4. He went directly from the glory of His Jordan baptism

experience to the Judean desert. This is one of the most barren spots on earth. It is so hot that the dust and rocks are heated to around 140 degrees. It was in this place and this climate that Satan tempted Jesus in the three basic ways we are also tempted.

"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread." Satan tempted Jesus to eat but more than that, he tempted Him to use His power in a compromising way. He had been led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to fast and this meant a total abstinence from food. If Jesus had broken that fast, He would not only have disobeyed the Father but would have become a servant of his physical appetite. Both would have been sin.

Now remember, temptation is not wrong in itself. It was not wrong for Jesus to eat. However, at this time it would have been totally wrong. To have yielded would have lead to ruin and destruction.

Today the people are being subjected to a monumental bombardment of the physical senses. You need not go into the desert to be tempted. We need only to turn on the radio, television or walk down the street. Flip through a magazine and the stories and slogans will whet your sensual appetites for something.

The philosophy of this generation is hedonism. This is the idea that pleasure constitutes our highest good. It is sort of the Playboy philosophy. It is also what many students are being taught in the classroom. This idea is carried in most of the publications now on the market. "Who needs puritanical philosophy?" "Enlightened people need to set themselves free. They need to create meaningful relationships by doing their own thing. As long as nobody gets hurt, pleasure is the ultimate goal and there is no limit."

While Jesus' temptation was not along sexual lines here, He was asked to yield to a healthy physical appetite-hunger. But He triumphed! He was not so shallow that He would "live by bread alone."

Comedians and politicians have had a lot of fun at the expense of that statement but do not make the mistake of missing its profound meaning. There is a lot more to life than satisfying a physical appetite. If we live primarily for food, drink and physical satisfaction, we will eventually become "overstuffed." The most bored people on earth are those who become the pawns of intemperance and unrestraint. These people turn to drugs and the outer limits of physical

desires. They seem to never find happiness. We are programmed to know, enjoy and to love God and anything else eventually exhausts us.

You no doubt have heard the paraphrase of the twenty third Psalm which was found in a Long Beach, California phone booth. It read as follows:

King Heroin is my shepherd, I shall always want.
He maketh me to lie down in the gutters:
He leadeth me beside troubled waters.
He destroyeth my soul.
He leadeth me in the path of wickedness for effort's sake.
Yea, I shall walk through the valley of poverty and will fear all evil:
For thou, heroin, art with me.
Thy needle and capsule try to comfort me.
Thou strippest the table of groceries in the presence of my family:
Thou robbest my head of reason, my cup of sorrow runneth over.
Surely, heroin addiction shall stalk me all the days of my life
And I shall dwell in the house of the damned forever.

These words were penned by a twenty year old addict who was trying to kick the habit. But remember, drugs are only one way men and women have put "bread" ahead of God in our affluent, materialistic society. Most people would paraphrase the twenty third Psalm like this:

"Money, cars, clothes, popularity, television, fun and games, or doing things for kicks, are my shepherd, and I can't get enough of them."

The pursuit of pleasure is out of control. Our forefathers had a beautiful idea when they reasoned and penned, "All men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Unfortunately, that "Pursuit of happiness" has turned into the pursuit of pleasure. Pleasure, comfort and self-indulgence have become all important to millions of people.

Jesus made it clear that the worship of pleasure and God can not mix. It was stated in I Timothy that just prior to the return of Christ, men would "Love pleasure more than they love God." Do we see that today?

The Bible promises pleasure but not the pleasure we have been describing. This pleasure is not filling our stomachs with gourmet food or crowding our closets with the latest fashions. Real satisfaction comes from a relationship with God that brings us into full dependence upon Him instead of things.

Jesus came to give us the "abundant life." According to psychologists, we have two important needs: to have love and the feeling of self worth. In other words, in order to be happy we must feel that someone, somewhere really loves us, with no strings attached. We must feel that what we are and what we do really matters.

Added to this is the idea of worthwhileness: a feeling that what we do will last longer than we do. The Bible actually calls this fruitfulness. Jesus told His disciples that they must share His life for "apart from Him, they could do nothing."

That is what makes the Christian life so beautiful: sharing and obeying Christ. It must be done on a voluntary basis. God does not move in and make us do it. He just lets it grow and develop.

As a Christian, you will never have perpetual pleasure. You will not always be in high form. There will be times when God will have to bring about circumstances conducive to trust, dependence and belief. You may be required to suffer. But in the final analysis, it will be a "good life." Paul told Timothy "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

In Jesus the good life is here. An even better one is to come. May God lead us away from temptation and help us to be overcomers when we are tempted.

Brother Len Wertz

THE EYES OF THE LORD

Jer. 32:17-19, "Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the Lord of hosts, is his name; Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every

one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings;"

Psalm 11:4, "The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

It should be a sobering thought that God sees all that we do, but we should not think that God is constantly looking for little sins for which He can punish us. Rather His eyes are upon us for good; if we trust Him and love Him.

II Chron. 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars."

Because Asa forgot how God had delivered them from the Ethiopians, and chose to trust in the king of Syria, great troubles came upon him.

Solomon prayed that God's eyes should be open unto the temple, I Kings 8:29. And that His eyes should be open unto the supplication of those who called upon Him, I Kings 8:52. See also II Chron. 6:20, 40.

I Kings 9:3, "And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." See also II Chron. 7:12-16.

Heb. 4:13, "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Please read verses 9 through 16.

I Peter 3:12, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

Hagar understood that God saw her where ever she was. Gen. 16:13, "And she called the name of the Lord that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?"

Jer. 32:19, "Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:"

Jer. 24:6, "For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up."

Psalm 94:9, "He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?"

Gen. 6:8-9, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God."

We may find grace in His eyes, by the forgiveness of sins, by faith in Christ, and the applied blood, which He has shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Psalm 32:1-2, "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."

Christ our Redeemer died on the cross,
Died for the sinner, paid all his due
All who receive Him, need never fear
Yes, he will pass, will pass over you.

Chiefest of sinners, Jesus can save
As he has promised, so will he do;
Oh, sinner hear him, trust in his word
Then he will pass, will pass over you.

Judgment is coming, all will be there,
Who have rejected, Who have refused?
Oh, sinner hasten, Let Jesus in,
Then God will pass, will pass over you.

Oh, what compassion, Oh, boundless love!
Jesus hath power, Jesus is true;
All who believe are safe from the storm,
Oh, he will pass, will pass over you.

When I see the blood,
I will pass over you,
When I see the blood,
I will pass, I will pass over you.

May His eyes be always upon you for good.

Brother William Carpenter

HOME

Home was instituted by God. It is a wonderful institution on earth, a blessed place, if it is a Christian home.

The young man and woman who are true Christians, starting out in life together to establish a home, will meet with many problems, joys, and sorrows. The kindest and the happiest pair will have occasion to forbear; and something every day they live to pity and perchance forgive. Love and prayer will ease many a broken heart.

When the family is started, God gives us these little innocent children, and intrusts them in our care, to teach them the way of truth and right, that they might grow up to serve the Lord. Children are great imitators, they believe what we tell them, and how they cling to us for protection. How can we be careful enough in the examples we put before them?

As Moses gave instructions to the children of Israel, when they were encamped in the plains of Moab, shortly before entering the land of promise. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto the children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deut. 6:7. Moses knew the importance of keeping God's law before them, for they were so prone to stray away from the true and living God and serve other gods.

As older parents we look back and see the mistakes we made and the opportunities we lost when our children were small. If younger parents could realize the great value in teaching their little ones, while they are little, as it has been stated, a child's character is formed in the first five years of its life. If this be true, think how great the responsibility is. Their little minds are so pliable. We know how they ask so many questions. May God give us wisdom to give them the right answers.

We have a beautiful picture of a Home, given by David. "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be

blessed that feareth the Lord." Psalm 128:3.

Where there is a large family they help one another. When one becomes injured, the other children are concerned, because they love one another.

Christian heritage is invaluable to those who have or have had a Christian Father and Mother. They should be so thankful for them. However, because our parents lived a Godly life, will not save us. We will have to work out our own soul's salvation.

We believe the Mother has a great influence, for good or bad over the family of children. So much could be said about a Mother's influence. Not only while the children are little but, as a never ending love and devotion for them.

The prophecy of King Lemuel that his Mother taught him, portrays a most beautiful picture of an ideal wife and Mother.

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." Prov. 31:26-28.

What a wonderful blessing when children have confidence and respect for their parents, and likewise, parents can have the same for their children. It requires much prayer and love one for another.

A true Christian parent will have that same joy in their children, if they walk in truth, as the Beloved disciple John spoke of Gaius, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 4.

When children do not walk in truth, it not only grieves the earthly parent but also our Heavenly Father.

In a Christian home, little kind deeds, may seem small but they have a great value in building up love and respect for each other. When children leave the parents to start a home, they will still love to come back home. Why? Because there is that love that binds children and parents together. But when the time comes to leave these earthly homes, there is a Home prepared where we can meet, to part no more, if we are faithful and do His Will. "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:16.

A sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er,
Today I'm nearer to my home
Than e'er I've been before.

Sister Clara Gunderman

THE CURSE OF GOD ON THE EARTH

The curse placed upon the earth by God at the sin of Adam and Eve recorded in Genesis 3 was an act of mercy on God's part. It plays an integral part in salvation. It is still in effect today with implications for environmental issues.

When Adam and Eve sinned God cursed the serpent (Gen. 3:14) who was responsible for instilling the temptation to disobey God's command into Adam and Eve. The curse affects the serpent itself and its position in the created order and in what it eats for the rest of its life.

Then God speaks to the woman who not only disobeys, but then "gave also unto her husband with her." (vs. 6) Notice he does not curse Eve, but he does increase her pain in child birth and places her in subjection to her husband. The punishment affects women every where.

When he speaks to Adam, however, God says in part, "cursed is the ground for thy sake, in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; (vs. 17-19). Just as the wages of sin is death, so the punishment for sin makes life a harder gift from God to bear for women and for men who rule over women.

However, the fact that God curses the ground was an act of Mercy on God's part. If God had cursed Adam instead of the ground, man would have been cursed forever. Already in Genesis 3:14 the serpent is cursed. That curse remained in effect in the past until Christ came to bruise his head. It remains in effect today while Christ has defeated Satan, but Satan continues to bruise the heel of the church (Rev. 12:13,17). It will remain in effect while Satan is cast into the lake of fire with his demons. (Matthew 25:41)

God's curse is not revoked easily, if at all. In Deuteronomy 21:23 God curses all who hang on a tree. In Galations 3:13 Christ is still

preached as bearing the curse for hanging on a tree. So it is an act of mercy on God's part to make humans struggle for existence and life on a cursed earth rather than to carry within himself the curse of God for all eternity.

Secondly, God's cursing the earth instead of Adam plays an integral part in salvation. Part of the creation plan involves the salvation of humans for we are told that Christ was slain before the foundations of the world. In the punishment of the serpent God has already made reference to the role Christ would have in saving mankind from sin.

Please note how carefully God has thought this out. The salvation of humans for our sin is to be brought about by a child of the woman whom Satan has just deceived. God's planning is even longer ranging. God has made mankind in His own image. Jesus, as the Son of God, shows us who the Father is. Jesus and the Father are one. If we have seen Jesus we have seen the Father. Jesus is the image of God the Father. Humans are also made in the image of God. So when Jesus came as a human being to be the Christ for human beings He was not putting on a nature totally foreign to Himself. In other words, Jesus is not a mutated God. In fact it is because of this fact that Jesus can be fully God and fully human. Very God and very man.

Another fact involved in this salvation planning is found in Genesis 3:22 where God is talking. God says: "Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil." This statement tells us two things. First God has the knowledge of good and evil. Of course that stands to reason, for if God did not have such knowledge how could He declare the law which defines what is good and evil? Or how could He be judge between good and evil? (Just a point of clarification. Although God has this knowledge, God's will is so in control of Himself that God has never acted in an evil way. The scriptures are consistent in this witness to God's eternal goodness.) Satan also has this knowledge but he has chosen to act only in evil ways. (This is his claim to godship. Because he is all that God is not he is a god of his own creative evil empire. Satan brought evil into existence.) Second, verse 22 of chapter 3 tells us that when Adam and Eve sinned mankind now possessed this knowledge of good and evil. This explains why some people can be so moral and good

and other people can be so despicably evil. It also explains why sometimes people are good and will turn in the blink of an eye and do something evil. It is why humanity is so ambivalent about morality. The fact is, when sin came and ruled over us, humanity no longer was able to control his will consistently to always do good or always do evil. It is part of the whole dilemma described by Paul in Romans 7:19,23, 24.

"For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ...I see another law in my members, warring against the law of the mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death."

Our knowledge of good and evil is why we need to live and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit if we are to live a consistent, holy and obedient life. Jesus Christ also had this knowledge of good and evil. Jesus had this knowledge because he was fully God. Jesus had this knowledge because He was fully man. Very God and very man. Therefore, Jesus could be tempted in every way that man is tempted. Jesus really felt the pull to use His knowledge of evil for Himself. In the wilderness temptations Jesus is tempted to care for Himself by providing food for Himself. He is tempted to question God and set Himself up against God's scripture. He is tempted to gain glory and power for Himself by taking the short and easy way of worshipping Satan. Just as our biggest sins are self-sufficiency, self-righteousness, and self-will. He does not give in and use His knowledge of what is evil. He does not become ruled by sin. He does not become evil in His being as humans and Satan have become because we have used our knowledge of evil in actions. Thus Jesus is able to be the sacrifice that brings salvation to humanity.

If God had cursed Adam instead of the earth, Christ would not have been able to bring salvation to humans. For man would be cursed for all eternity. The curse could not be revoked. Second, Christ being fully human would also be cursed. He could not bring about salvation for He would be part of the punishment of sin. He struggled to live on the cursed earth among sinful men, but He was a man free from the curse and not under bondage to sin. When Christ becomes cursed it was for hanging on a tree not for being sinful. Our sins were placed on Christ and He bears all our sins in

Himself. We are set free from the bondage of sin, but still live on a cursed earth. God's cursing of the earth was part of the plan of salvation and an act of mercy toward humankind.

We have already established that the curse of God is not revoked, so the curse on the earth is still in effect. It was not purged in the flood of Noah. This can be proved from scripture. Genesis 3:17b-19a reads: "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return to the ground." Any farmer will tell you that the weeds still grow and making a living is still a hard fought battle. Any person alive will tell you how hard it is to make a living and will give you a story of blood, sweat, and tears.

The words of Genesis are confirmed in Romans 8:22 which reads: "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." This verse indicates that the earth still heaves under the curse of sin. In Romans 8:19-21 the "creature" (in other versions of the Bible the "creation") waits for the manifestation of the sons of God so that it can be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty. This waiting of the earth is for the day of Christ's second coming.

Third, many times in the Bible, the redeemed are promised the creation of a new heaven and a new earth. In II Peter 3:7 we read: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." If the curse has been lifted from the earth there would be no reason to create them. God would merely need to destroy sinful, non-redeemed persons and the redeemed could live happily ever after.

The curse was an act of mercy, it was a part of the plan of salvation, it remains in effect, but someday the earth that bears the curse will be destroyed and a new earth put in its place. Genesis 2:15 gives humans the Divine injunction to dress and keep the earth. That command is never revoked. So we as humans need to take our rightful place on environmental issues. Romans 8 tells us that as redeemed persons we need to help relieve the present earth, as much as we can, so it can be freed from its groanings and travailings. Unlike other environmentalists who see us as one with the earth, or

see the earth as a "mother" or even a life giving god (There are people in the New Age Movement who believe this.) We must understand that the earth is a good creation of God that bears in itself the curse of sin and is destined to be destroyed. Other environmentalists will think of the earth as existing forever. In their mind we supposedly borrow its resources from our children. For the Christian this is not so. Our God is still creatively involved in the earth, and will renew it and revive it when necessary. We care for the earth not for our children, but for our God, until God returns to take us home, and to destroy the earth. Christians walk a fine line. We are tempted either to not care at all for the earth and use and abuse its resources for our own good and wealth. (A charge rightly leveled against the Church in the past.) Or we are tempted to ignore the scriptures and buy into the world's way of thinking that if the earth dies we die. This world is not our home. We are just passing through, but we are under divine obligation to dress and keep the earth for the God who created us for that purpose.

Brother Steven R. Kooistra

1997 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

Continued from September 1, 1997 Issue

Monday Evening.

Bro. Milton Cook opened. Galatians 1:1-12. Paul learned to preach from God. Has the Gospel been changed? No, it is the same. Changing God's Holy Word by any one, God said, "Let him be accursed." What was Paul's purpose? It was to preach the Gospel of God's Holy Word. We live in a world that is looking for another Gospel. God gave us a saving Gospel. He gave us what we need.

Bro. Henry Walker. Acts 2:36-38. Christ shed His blood that we could gain salvation. God gave His only Begotten Son that we could be saved. After three days, Christ rose from His grave. We are living in the last days. Satan is working harder than he ever did before to deceive the people. We are saved by faith. Every time we look into God's Word, we find something new. We all have sinned and come short of Christ's glory. We need to confess before the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter told his people to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins, and every one of you will be saved. Except we are

baptized, born of the water, we cannot see the kingdom of Heaven.

Bro. Edward Johnson. Ephesians 3. Power. The Apostle Paul wanted to know the power of the resurrection. Having a form of godliness without power is no good; turn away from this. If the power of God fails, we have nothing. God wants His power flowing through us. Watch the power of God in earthquakes, tornadoes, and the floods and rains. God shows us His power. God's power shows through the Church. Power of salvation was given us through Christ. How long will God tarry with us? Talking about the cross is the power of Christ. Jesus went to the Cross for our sins. This meant power to us. The power of Christ cleanses all sins. Humble ourselves and pray, and God will forgive our sins and heal the church and sins of the world. "Come out from among them, and be a separate people," saith the Lord. By grace ye are saved through faith.

Bro. Robert Lehigh closed. The blood of Christ is what saves us and cleanses us from all sins.

Tuesday Morning Worship.

Bro. William Heisey. Nehemiah 1:4, 2:1, 4:12-14, 6:15-16. Nehemiah considered himself a servant of God. He prayed to God to get help to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. Nehemiah had great concern to rebuild by the help of God. Nehemiah talked to the King and the people about rebuilding the walls. They put in big days on the walls. Nehemiah prayed continually while helping to build the walls around Jerusalem.

Tuesday A.M.

Bro. Gordon Jamison opened. I Cor. 13:15-17. We are here to build up our faith. We are thankful we can be here. We must abound in the work of the Lord.

Bible Study: The Unrighteous Will Not Prosper. Psalms 37:20-40.

Bro. Dean Shaffer. Walking in Christ's Victory. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Christ was tempted many times. Jesus Christ was a faithful witness for God. Jesus was an humble man who came to serve. The King of the universe came to heal and serve. He got His joy from doing God's will. Jesus, who went to the cross, said, "I have overcome the world." Jesus won victory over death. God gave Him the highest title that ever will be

given. Jesus is every thing to God. His humility and victory pleased God. We find it easy to complain, but we fail to go to God. Sin is all about us. We fight against sin, but we cannot overcome the world. Some Christians give up hope of making a success. God's answer is to place us in the Holy Christ's care. God is rich in mercy with many blessings from Him. We have an enemy, Satan, who tries to keep us from the power of Christ and prayers. He would like to lure us into sins. We should be transformed to become like Christ. God can transform us. Shut the door on the Devil, so God can work in us. The Apostle Paul was a real Christian who followed Christ's teachings. We must be able to forgive. Unforgiveness is the open door to the Devil. Obey the teachings of Christ and be a faithful witness for God. He that overcomes will inherit a Heavenly Home.

Bro. Jason Reed closed. Can people look at us and say we are following God's Holy Son, Christ?

Tuesday P.M.

Bro. Dave Snyder opened. Watch speech from our mouth—what we say. Any bad thoughts against God by someone, forget them. Satan tries hard to deceive us.

Mission of Torreon.

Bro. Paul Skiles. I Kings 18. An Indian lady came to the home of Paul Skiles to ask him to pray for her son. He had a damaged hand through an accident. Indian children would not be vaccinated for meningitis. They said they trusted God and did not need a vaccination. A strong point of Navajo people is that they are very forgiving people. We can learn from Navajo Indian culture. Navajo's are content with what they have. They are very peaceful people. The Navajo's are not good money managers. Navajos do not have a circular view of life. They are very superstitious. Remember Irene in prayer. She is a very nice Indian lady, but she is living in sin. Pray for Allen, an Indian boy who is trying hard to be a Christian. One of our Indian ladies, very sincere, wants our church to pray for her family. The Indian Mission works with the power of God through our church prayers.

Bro. David Rice closed. Do all we can to live true to Christ.

Tuesday Evening.

Bro. Bob Carpenter opened. Matthew 25:31-40. Jesus said, "It's more blessed to give than to receive." Our great mission is to help those in need.

Bro. Dale Jamison. I Cor. 5:17. Evangelism begins with how you are looking tonight. Look with compassion to the world. There are ways we can help our world. If you do not have Christ, you go to hell. Disobedience can come to Christian people. A fresh start comes to a person wanting to learn about Christ and the Father. Do we really believe in Missions? Missionaries are still wanted. We should share our faith in Christ with people of the world when possible. Recognize people who are in need of learning about Christ.

Bro. Rudy Shaffer closed. What does it mean to us, a fresh start? What does salvation mean to you?

Wednesday Morning Worship.

Bro. Ray Stuber. Ecc. 12:1-3, Psalms 34:4-7. Our bodies become frail as we grow older. At old age, you might feel unwanted. You are needed to be here for the younger people. If our bodies are frail, there is hope when we can go to our Heavenly Home. "Let my soul look up with steadfast hope.

Wednesday A.M.

Bro. Edward Johnson opened. II Thess. 2:1-2. Stand fast and be true to the faith.

Sister Alice Heisey

OF MAKING MANY BOOKS

Ecclesiastes 12:2

Often we look and see all the many hundreds of Christian periodicals: some good, some not so good. Though we are called to the work of writing, we sometimes think, "Why should I add my two cents to an already crowded avenue?" John said it well in the last verse of his gospel: "...I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written." (About the doings of Jesus.) It is true that Jesus is still changing lives today, as He did back then, and these things should be brought forth.

Yet, we often ask the question, "Why us?" We would not even be

asking this question if it were not for the many discouragements along the way. God's Word does not have preeminence in the world today. Many who should know better are rejecting the truth. Those who are walking in the light are becoming fewer and fewer. The Church is having difficulty keeping its children, let alone reaching out to those outside the number.

Yet, all through the New Testament is stressed the spreading of the Gospel. At first the works and life of Jesus were spread orally. After a number of years the Gospels were set down in writing so that they could be spread even further. Not only were the original gospels, the Acts, the Epistles, and the Revelation set down in writing, but the early church fathers (approximately the first 300 years of the church) committed their experiences to print and filled twelve volumes, numbering thousands of pages.

During the Dark Ages (from about 400 AD to 1400 AD) the scriptures were suppressed by those wishing to keep the world in bondage. In the late 1400's the invention of the printing press and inroads in education caused the truth to flourish again. Again, the world became a battleground of truth versus error.

We are told today that we live in a New Age. We are told that man is basically good. We are also told that with education and indoctrination man can become a god. These errors need to be refuted. We as the blood-bought children of God need to proclaim the truth from the rooftops. May God help us to continue to publish the truth in the face of so much error, though we face weariness and discouragement.

May we only seek to please the One who gave His life for us.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1937

OUR DUTY

L. W. Beery

It is certain that if we have a bright hope of experiencing the fulfillment of the promises of the Holy Scriptures in our lives both

here and beyond the grave we should put forth what effort we can to attain that which is hoped for. The promises that are given us are given with the understanding that there are certain terms which must be complied with by those who would receive them. This being the case we should earnestly strive to measure up to those requirements else we cannot look forward with assurance and will come short of attaining the desired blessings. The Apostle Paul in writing to the Hebrews warns concerning this in these words: "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." (Heb. 4:12.)

As an illustration Paul refers to the Israelites who failed to enter the promised land and calls attention to the fact that they were responsible for failing to receive the promise that had been given. The reason he plainly states, "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." (Heb. 3:19.) The Lord had revealed how they were to do in order to possess the land but the Israelites lacked sufficient faith in the word of God, failed to obey and thus were not permitted to enter the land which had been promised them.

This appears to be the way so many people are doing under the dispensation in which we are living. There are many precious promises given us in the word regarding salvation and immortal life beyond the grave but the Lord has revealed to us in no uncertain terms the requirements on our part in order to receive these blessings. In the light of the lesson that Paul points out how foolish it is for any one to ignore the facts. Yet we hear on every hand men contending that there are non-essential teachings in the word. In fact this is the kind of doctrine that is favorably looked upon, received and taught by the majority who profess Christianity. As a result the commandments, statutes and ordinances of the New Testament—the requirements, have been cast aside until there are now but a few churches which make an effort to carry out the New Testament teachings in their primitive purity. It is not to be wondered at that there is so much confusion, unrest and dissatisfaction in the churches when the word of God has been supplanted by the reasonings and theories of men. When men lose faith in a matter they cease to put forth effort in that line. Thus when men lose faith in the scriptures they cease striving

to live as the scriptures teach. This is a sad state of affairs indeed. How can we hope to receive the blessings which the Holy Scriptures promise unless we comply with the requirements upon which the promises are based?

Certainly there is no way of having any assurance except through faith and obedience. It is a way that brings results as is proved by the lives of many righteous men of whom we have record in the scriptures. Paul recognized this when he exhorted Timothy thus, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." (1 Tim. 6:12.) In this reference Paul indicates that it requires effort to live the Christian life and obtain eternal life. We must use our God given time, talents and energies in living a life of non-conformity to the world. After mentioning some of the things that lead men away from God, Paul says to Timothy, "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." This is the path our Master trod, and certainly, if we ever expect to enter into the land of rest with Him, we must follow in His footsteps. Faith and obedience will make our hopes come true. This is our duty. Anything short of this will end in certain and everlasting ruin and disgrace.

IS THERE ANY WORD FROM THE LORD?

(Read Hebrews 6:1-9)

Jeremiah 37:17-19, "Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the Lord? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon. Moreover Jeremiah said unto king Zedekiah, What have I offended against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that ye have put me in prison? Where are now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land?"

The prophet Jeremiah soon found that it is not popular to stand for what God has said. Like our spiritual ancestors, it caused him to end up in prison. Like King Zedekiah, there are many who are asking the question, "Is there any word from the Lord?" In America

there are multitudes of religious movements that are seeking to answer this question. The comparatively new inventions of radio and television have bombarded the populace with various views and opinions on what the word of the Lord is for today. The one element that seems to be growing in disfavor is the fact of God's judgment.

The writer of the book of Hebrews in chapter six exhorts us to "go on to perfection" which, in this instance, has to do with finishing. He firmly instructs us that, first of all, God has established some basic truths that have to be settled in our mind once and for all. Many modern movements teach that there are no absolutes in the Word of God. They end up with a faith built on a weak foundation with the main beam being of inferior material and the supporting timber made of low grade lumber, like a poorly constructed house.

The bedrock foundation of our faith must be the principles of the doctrine of Christ. We must believe that He is the Son of God as well as God the Son. We must accept and appropriate in our personal faith life all the attributes and spiritual truths of Jesus Christ.

Next we must establish the foundation of repentance from dead works. There are those who teach that repentance is not a part of our salvation experience. Recent "language experts" have even come up with the ridiculous idea that repentance is not a biblical word. We are instructed to repent from dead works. We have to have it settled in our mind that human works have nothing to do with gaining Heaven. Repentance is like the main beam in a house structure.

Next we are instructed to have faith toward God. We must recognize the true Triune God. We must avoid such errors as "God the Mother."

Next we come to things that could be considered the support beams of the faith. "The doctrine of baptisms." There are two types of baptism mentioned in Holy Scripture, Spirit baptism and water baptism. Both of these have caused great discussion and confusion within the earthly church. Unlike the foundation, Jesus Christ, and the main beam, repentance and a correct understanding of the true God, we believe there can be some variation in understanding on those truths deemed to be supporting lumber without harming our salvation. However, this does not mean that these things should not be settled in our mind. We are persuaded that we should hold fast to

our understanding that Spirit baptism and water baptism are usually experienced at the same event and that trine immersion baptism is the correct mode.

"And of laying on of hands." We believe this has to do with ordaining officials. We appreciate our Brethren understanding of respect for officials but refusing to place them in a position of authority beyond the Word of God.

"...of resurrection of the dead." Modern day religion denies both the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ and a resurrection of the dead at the end of the age.

"...and of eternal judgement." As we stated earlier, this teaching seems to be growing in disfavor.

The Hebrew Christians spoken of in verses four to six in our study chapter rejected the work Christ had performed within them through the Holy Spirit. By doing so they faced the judgment of God with no possibility of repenting again.

Let us be careful which "prophets" we give heed to. The truth is not always what we wish to hear. Is there a word from the Lord? Yes, and we must be willing to follow it or face God's judgment.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

REPORT-AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

September 19, 1997

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." I Timothy 2:3-4.

Brethren Paul Stump and Rudy Shaffer are planning a visit to Kenya and Uganda in late September and early October. They will be working with the Church in Kenya. They will also be seeking a suitable location for Brother and Sister Verling Wolfe and Brother and Sister Timothy Scofield and Sons who will be going in December, the Lord willing.

Brother Paul and Brother Rudy plan to visit Brother Godfrey Kiiza

and Brother Peter Kitembo and the two churches they are ministering to, in Uganda. They also intend to check on the ninety-eight orphan children and their schooling.

The sending of missionaries to Africa will require considerable sacrifice on the part of the missionaries, and prayerful, gracious and generous support from all of us in the United States of America. Read II Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." Let us be liberal stewards of the manifold grace of God that the lost in Africa may receive that GIFT.

Brother Ray R. Reed, Sec.

OBITUARY

ROY J. SWIHART

Bro. Roy J. Swihart, 95, Goshen, Indiana, died at 2:15 P.M. June 18, 1997 at Rosewood Terrace, Elkhart, Indiana.

He was born March 20, 1902, in Goshen, Indiana to Clarence and Mary Ann (Miller) Swihart. On June 2, 1925, in Goshen, he married, Mary N. Long. She died November 13, 1993.

He was chosen to the ministry of the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1937. He was ordained to the Eldership in 1947. He had worked at Goshen Churn and Ladder as a foreman and retired after thirty-five years of service. He had worked eight years with Hossick Bakery.

Surviving are three daughters, Mary Alice (Mrs. Earchle) Beecham and Elsie (Mrs. Tom) Kauffman, both of Goshen, Indiana and Clara (Mrs. Bud) Hammon, Elkhart, Indiana; three sons, Norman C., New Paris, Indiana, William A., Middlebury, Indiana and Roger, Quinter, Kansas; fifteen grandchildren; twenty-one great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Ben, Mishawaka, Indiana and Earl, Bristol, Indiana and Avon Park, Florida.

He was preceded in death by a son, Robert W. who died January 17, 1979; three grandchildren, Cheryl Kauffman, Jerry Beecham and James Hammon; a sister Helen Stutsman and three brothers, Harry, Paul and Glen.

Funeral services were held at the Yoder-Culp Funeral Home,

Goshen on Saturday, June 21, 1997. A Grandson, Jason Swihart, made opening remarks before Brother Terry Gunderman opened the service. Elder Harley Flory preached the funeral sermon. Burial was in the West Goshen Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

To carry out the decision of General Conference, the Publication Board has decided to raise the subscription price of the Bible Monitor. On January 1, 1998, the price for a subscription to the Bible Monitor will be raised to five dollars (\$5.00) a year. This will provide a more reasonable underwriting of the cost of producing the Bible Monitor. With the new format readers will actually receive more reading material through the year.

ADDRESS CHANGES

In the past few weeks during our change of printers and institution of new postal procedures, quite a number of addresses of our subscribers have been found faulty. These misaddressed items have been returned. If you have not received or know a subscriber who has not received recent issues it may be due to faulty addresses. Please inform the Editor of the correct address.

CORRECTION

In the Sixty Year Article entitled, "Covenants" by Ida M. Helm in the September 1997 Issue on page 25 the next to last sentence should read, "We are now in covenant relationship with the Trine God, three in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Hopefully this typographical error has not caused problems for any of our readers.

The Editor

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation is looking forward to October 25, our set date for our Lovefeast Service. Services will begin at 11:00 A.M., Saturday and continue at 2:00 P.M. The evening service at

7:00 P.M. We welcome all who can join us.

Zachary Rice, son of Bro. David and Sis. Bonnie Rice joined our pilgrim journey Heavenward by baptism.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania Congregation will hold a Revival Meeting from October 26 to November 2, 1997. The evangelist will be Brother Edward Johnson. We will be meeting at the Mohler's Meetinghouse, which is situated along Rt. 15. Turn north off the Rossmoyne Exit onto the Old Gettysburg Road. The meetinghouse is less than a half mile on the left. From the Simpson Ferry Road, turn south onto Wesley Drive and then turn west onto the Old Gettysburg Road until you see Mohler's on the left.

We are trusting God that He will visit our meetings with blessings. Please come praying and bring others with you.

Sister Ruth Miller, Cor.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

The Pine Ridge Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast weekend, November 15 and 16, 1997. They would welcome all who could attend and worship with them. For further information please contact Bro. John Meyers, 560 Sellers Rd., Moselle, MS 39459. Telephone 601-582-7730.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Pleasant Ridge Congregation is looking forward to their Lovefeast Service on November 8 and 9. Services will begin at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday. We welcome all to come and worship with us.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

We, the Dunkard Brethren Church at Quinter, Kansas welcome Brother Bob Carpenter as our evangelist from October 26 to Novem-

ber 2, 1997. Our Communion Service will be held on Saturday evening, November 1. We welcome all to join us as we worship and fellowship.

Sister Beth Jamison, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation just closed a nine day revival, August 23 through 31 with Bro. Ray Reed, of Dallas Center, Iowa as evangelist. He preached twelve Gospel filled sermons. While no converts joined our ranks at this time we still feel that much good has been done to strengthen our faith and keep us pressing on toward the mark of the high calling in Christ Jesus. The meetings were fairly well attended. We had visiting Brethren and Sisters from neighboring congregations for our Lovefeast and Lord's Supper with twenty-one surrounding the Lord's table with our Elder Ray Stuber assisted by Elder Ray Reed officiating. One sister requested the anointing service which was also administered at this time by the Elders.

To the writer the whole service was very meaningful. I believe it was to all present. It seems sometimes that the Lord can be closer to a few than to the many. Pray for Swallow Falls Church spiritually, physically and especially for our young people, that all will hold out faithful to the end.

All Christians are facing trials that we have never faced before. We will need all the spiritual strength that we can get from the Lord and from one another on earth.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

THANKS TWICE

First I want to thank the new writers to the Bible Monitor. We need you and it makes our church paper more interesting to have different writers, writing on different subjects and shedding more Biblical light on our everyday walk of life. Different writers bring out oftentimes the same scriptures in ways that appeal to different people more forcefully than another writer would. I am sure we have more capable writers out there in the harvest field that are letting their talents decay. Every born again child of God should be a missionary

to the lost. Everyone is a watchman on the wall. Unless we witness to the stranger we may be held responsible by our Lord. Let us see how many stars we can get in our crowns. How many we will never know until we are rewarded our crowns.

One of my favorite hymns is "Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown?" The most important need to go with our witnessing is to search ourselves daily seeking the Lord in our secret closet in Bible study and prayer that our lives and our actions abstain from all appearance of evil and match the things we do, say, and write. I have found it a real pleasure to witness for Jesus and His Word.

My second thank-you is to the readers of the Bible Monitor for the cards, letters, flowers, telephone calls and prayers while I spent nine weeks at Dr. Scott's Natural Hygienic Health Institute, Strongsville, Ohio. I appreciated every one. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness. A blood test gave me a quick warning that I was in danger of a stroke or heart attack, so I quickly went in order to prevent further trouble. I feel that a stitch in time saved nine. I am back at home now.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1997

November 2 - Desiring A Better Country - Hebrews 11:13-29.

1. How do God's promises to us extend beyond our physical lives?
2. Explain why it is so important that faith precede our actions?

November 9 - The Power Of Faith - Hebrews 11:30-40.

1. What can be accomplished **WITHOUT** faith?
2. What can be accomplished **WITH** faith? Give examples.

November 16 - The Author And Finisher Of Our Faith - Hebrews 12:1-13.

1. How is Jesus the finisher of our faith?
2. Why does the Lord chasten and scourge His children?

November 23 - THANKSGIVING - Philippians 4:1-23.

1. Why should thanksgiving be included with our prayers and supplications unto God?
2. How is "Rejoice in the Lord alway" dependent upon a continual attitude of thanksgiving?

November 30 - Do Not Turn From Him That Speaketh From Heaven - Hebrews 12:14-29.

1. Why is holiness a requirement for seeing the Lord?
2. What is a "Root of bitterness"?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1997

November 2 - Watch Our Steps - II Cor. 5:7, Gal. 5:16, Eph. 4:1, I John 1:6-10.

1. What is the "vocation wherewith ye are called"?
2. How can we "walk in the light"?

November 9 - Which Way Are We Looking? - Matt. 7:13-14, Heb. 12:1-6.

1. Why is it important to look toward our goal?
2. To whom should we look? Why?

November 16 - Signs Of The Times - Matt. 24:1-31.

1. Why do many come in Christ's name?
2. What are the "great signs and wonders" which the "false christ's and false prophets...shall shew"?

November 23 - THANKSGIVING - Deut. 8:10, Psalm 100:4, Col. 1:12, Col. 3:15, I Thess. 5:18.

1. Why is it so easy to forget to thank God when our stomachs are full?
2. How is it possible to "In everything give thanks"?

November 30 - True Treasures - Matt. 6:19-21, Luke 6:45, 12:15-39.

1. What are the treasures we should be laying up in Heaven?
2. How can you tell if the treasure is for yourself or for rightness toward God?

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St.John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C.Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C.Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Mike Wray, Secretary
R.5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Ray Stuber
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, PA 17356

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St.John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St.John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Paul Nell
Woodland Drive
R6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, PA 17403
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
R 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Rudy Shaffer, Chairman
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Ray R.Reed, Secretary
302 Percival
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Mark Andrews, Treasurer
24407 South Overfelt Road
Peculiar, MO 64078

All contributions to the various boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Dunkard Brethern Church
14 E. Main St.
North East, PA 16428

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
Postage
PAID
Permit #158
North East, PA



Elam Moss
4254 Richmond Palestine Rd
New Madison OH 45346-9608

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

NOVEMBER 1997

NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHEN ALL THY MERCIES

When all thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love, and praise.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart could know
From whom those comforts flowed.

When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renewed my face;
And when in sins and sorrows bowed,
Revived my soul with grace.

Thro' every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue;
And after death, in distant worlds,
The glorious theme renew.

-Joseph Addison

FORGETFULNESS

It is a common assumption that it is the elderly who are forgetful. We tend to forget how forgetful other age groups are also. How often will a child or young person say that they had forgotten to do some assigned task? Those entering upon adulthood will often become forgetful and distracted as they fall in love. People of more mature years are forgetful because of the press of business.

Forgetfulness, probably, can not be completely cured. There are various techniques that may help to improve the memory. They may range from tying a string around the finger to some very sophisticated, psychological techniques.

Forgetfulness is a part of being human. It reminds us of our imperfections. No matter how good we may be or how good we may want to be, we are not perfect. Just when we think we might be pretty good, we forget something. Then we know we are not perfect.

We forget many things during a lifetime. We may mislay objects. We may forget important dates. We may forget the identities of people we should remember. We may forget how to accomplish things that once were second nature to us. The list goes on of all that we may forget, at least, sometime during our lives.

What we forget may cause us embarrassment. We may lose money and advancement because of our forgetfulness. We may cause extra work for ourselves or others because we forget. We

THE BIBLE MONITOR**NOVEMBER 1997**

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 14 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor; R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362.

MARLIN MARKS, Associate Editor; 3027 Acorn Lane, Red Lion, PA 17356.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

may forget how to do a task, so a job's completion is delayed. A forgotten appointment may affect our medical or financial well-being. These are all important areas of our lives that may be affected by our forgetfulness. As important as these areas may be, they are not the most serious ways in which forgetfulness can affect our lives. We are prone to forget of God and all He has provided for us.

This is a purpose of Thanksgiving Day. Although we are to be thankful at all times, this reminds us we do have much to be thankful for. As our daily lives go on, we are not as thankful as we should be. We become busy with the details of life and forget the overwhelming blessings from God. Without God and His goodness towards us, there would be no details of life that we could enjoy. All that we have and enjoy has come directly or indirectly from our Heavenly Father.

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday. George Washington called for a time of Thanksgiving during his presidency. Other Presidents called for the nation to offer thanks upon various special occasions over the years. Abraham Lincoln established the present custom of a President proclaiming a day of national thanksgiving year after year. It was during the darkest days of the Civil War that he issued his call for a day to offer thanks to God.

The fact that it is a national holiday points out that even non-Christians have much to be thankful for. God does cause the rain and the sun to come down upon sinners as well as saints. Those who do not worship Him have received many blessings from His hands. Their health, strength and abilities come from Him. It is well that they can stop one day a year to think of their debt toward Him. It may not be the type of worship that He longs for from them, but it may cause them to think deeper about their dependence upon Him. In thinking upon that dependence upon Him, they may eventually desire to have a Spiritual relationship with Him.

A Christian should not confine his thankfulness to one day or season of the year. The Christian, above all, has so much more to be thankful for. His thankfulness does not stop with material, temporal or physical blessings, although he does receive them in abundance. He should be even more thankful for the Spiritual blessings that are his. God has shown him a love beyond any love known in

this world. God gave His Only Son as the gift of His love. He has offered the opportunity to become a part of His family. He has offered His help and care throughout this earthly life. He provides opportunities for fellowship and worship that the unsaved can not comprehend nor enjoy. He offers His Holy Spirit as the guide and director of Christian lives. He has provided a Heavenly Home at the end of a Christian life here. He has provided all that is necessary for a human to receive, live and enjoy a Spiritual life eternally. A God who can give as He has given deserves the thanks of all.

The Apostle Paul warns Christians to not forget the giving of thanks. He says to give thanks always. As those who have received so much we should be in the forefront of those giving thanks.

How is your memory? Do you remember to give thanks to God always?

M.C.Cook

THANKSGIVING

Howard Surbey

"And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan." Luke 17:15-16. One out of ten was thankful. Notice how sincere he was in his thankfulness: he turned back towards Jesus; he used a loud voice for he was not ashamed for others to know that he was thanking Jesus; he glorified God for he was sincere and had time to express his sincerity from the heart; he humbly fell down on his face before so great a being as Jesus. I wonder if ten percent of the professing men and women are really and truly thankful today? Notice I did not say the world but of those who wish to be recognized by Almighty God.

"I behold, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the

elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing and glory, and wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen." Rev. 7:9-12. Isn't this a wonderful scene? Would you like to be among the throng? Cannot you picture in your mind, how happy and appreciative this group is? Do you question that God will be well pleased with the group and that He will remember them?

"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Rev. 1:6. We certainly should be thankful for so loving a Saviour who made so great a sacrifice for our every good. The heavenly host already began praising and worshipping Him at His birth. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14. Cannot we thank Him by using our talents to bring peace and goodwill upon the earth?

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praise unto thy name, O most High to shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness everynight." Psalms 92:1-2. Did you ever meditate upon how many things you have to be thankful for? So many very important things, which we often do not fully appreciate, until we do not have them any more. Having the Word of God, the Holy Bible, and the religious liberty to obey and teach it is perhaps the greatest thing we should be thankful for. Then follows a long list of God's many, many provisions for our good.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name." Psalm 100:4. When do we enter into His gates and into His courts? Is it only when we enter His house of worship? Is thanksgiving and praise on our hearts even then? As John looked into Heaven he saw the multitude praising and adoring Almighty God and the Lamb, Jesus Christ; how much should we adore and praise them while still here upon the earth? I wonder if we do not learn to be thankful for and appreciative of Heavenly things, here upon this earth how much we would enjoy Heaven even if we were to get there? So many things upon

this earth are not comforting and satisfying, might it be so because we do not realize their proper purpose and do not appreciate enough from whence all things come?

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon the name of the Lord." Psa. 116:12-14,17. Read this last quotation over again and meditate upon it a few moments, is this our sincere desire? If we will use our talents towards this end, it will bring us joy, happiness and satisfaction upon this earth and some day a home in heaven.

Selected from November 15, 1955 Bible Monitor

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1937

THANKSGIVING AND THANKSLIVING

Ida M. Helm

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:1-3.)

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6.)

These scriptures utter a faith that can maintain thanksgiving in time of adversity and sorrow as in prosperity and gladness. At Philippi voices singing and praising God were heard in the jail, the voice came from the innermost prison. The other prisoners listened and wondered, they had never heard the like before and according to the slow working of the law in those days likely some had been in there for years. Who could it be? These sufferers joyful and patient were witnesses for Christ. It was Paul and Silas with their feet in the stocks, their backs bleeding from the scourging that day. They made the prison walls ring with songs of praise to God. God was listening and his abiding power shook open the old prison

doors and unloosed the fetters that bound the captives.

No earthly judge or jailer can stand before God's tribunal, and soon his persecuted messengers were sent on their way rejoicing and the jailer had made his peace with God. "He careth for you." "In everything give thanks." This may seem hard sometimes, but if we have our heart wholly set on God we can. God will have the whole heart or none of it. God does not give His people impossible things to do.

In Nehemiah 12:31 we read of two great companies in Jerusalem who started near the temple. They moved in different directions and gave thanks to God as they went, and eventually they met in the court of the Gentiles. They were consecrating the gates and wall of the city and giving thanks to God for being enabled to bring the work to completion. In the strength of God they had triumphed over every attempt of the enemy to stop the work, and the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off, and the surrounding nations saw and felt the power of God.

Today we hear rumblings and see dark clouds arise, but if we trust implicitly in God we need not fear the threatenings.

The United States has been richly blessed in 1937. There is plenty for everyone. God has not forgotten His created beings. It is well for us that He is long-suffering and kind. The flowers bloom, the birds sing, the cattle browsing on the rich pasturage. Cold days come and there is fuel at hand. Sunday morning comes and we may go up to the house of God and worship Him with no fears of being apprehended by civil authorities. God makes no mistakes in dealing with His children. We have a tendency to take things for granted. James 1:7 tells us to forget not all his benefits, every blessing we enjoy is a gift from God. The true people of God of all ages have been thankful. Thanksgiving and praise honors God. When we realize that all blessings, both temporal and spiritual come from God, and when we realize our utter dependence on our Creator for everything we surely can not be other than thankful.

"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18.)

Thanksgiving Day is widely observed, but it has gotten to be a

day of general fun and feasting more than of religious worship. On every hand we see elaborate preparation for feasting, for fun and frolic. The spirit of luxurious indulgence seems to be rampant, crowding out thoughts of the fact that God is sparing our lives for His glory and some day a just account will be required of us for the use to which we have put them.

Many seem to think life is given to them to do with as they please. It is in mercy that God spares them. If God were to deal with them according to their daily living they would be cut off immediately.

The proud Pharisee prayed that he was thankful that he was not like other people. He thought he was so much better than they. It was the humble Publican that smote his breast and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner," that received the commendation of God.

In Rom. 1:21 St. Paul tells us about people that knowing God they glorify Him not as God, neither give thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts and creeping things; wherefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to uncleanness that their bodies should be dishonored among themselves. (Rom. 1:21-24.)

These people knew God, but revolted from Him somehow, from God to self. We see it today, the tendency to question God's character, His purpose, to doubt His existence.

Someone has said, "Man has spent on these unworthy ways of thinking a great deal of weak and dull reasoning, and imbecile imagination." It leads farther and farther from God in unbelief and unthankfulness. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

There is a thanksgiving that is narrowed down to self-satisfaction. They are glad that they have been peculiarly favored and they never stop to think of the trials and adversities that have come to others. Others look out over the country side and see the suffering and need in many homes and make glad hearts with their giving. Thanksgiving and thanksgiving send up praise to God. This is real, true thanksgiving.

ARE WE THANKFUL

Are we being fair, I wonder,
With our Savior and our Lord?
Do we call upon Him often as He
Bids us in His Word?
Do we ever kneel before Him in
The stillness of the night,
Giving thanks when through some
Trial He has guided us alright?

We may pray to Him at dawning
For a day of love and peace.
Living through the sunny hours
When our troubles seem to cease.
Do we kneel again at evening when
The day spent and done
And recount these hours to Him
Giving thanks for every one?

If we prayed to Him at evening for
A night of quiet rest,
Did we thank Him in the morning
When He granted our request?
If we asked of Him some folly in
A prayer we thought was just
Did we come when He denied it
And repledge to Him our trust?

Though He knows our every action,
Thoughtlessness can grieve Him, too,
Let Him share our joys and sorrows
As a Friend has right to do.
Let us never be so busy nor so
Weary of the Way
That we cannot pause to thank Him
For the Blessings of today.

Selected by Sister Lisa Musselman

WHAT KIND OF A CHURCH MEMBER ARE YOU?

Author Unknown

1. There are the "Iceberg Members," chilly and unresponsive. Some of them can make the pastor's passion for his sermon drop 15 degrees during the opening song!

2. There are the "Martha Members." They show more interest in a church dinner than the spiritual food from the pulpit. They are more interested in the linens, silverware and dining room than in sitting at the feet of Jesus.

3. There are the "Church Tramps," an undependable lot. They visit their church occasionally, but when it comes time to share in the labor, they are not to be found. However, a church supper, an entertaining speaker or a gifted soloist may bring them out.

4. There are the "Brick Throwers," who find fault with anything they have not been consulted about. They are the gossips, the spirit-dampeners for any new project brought in by the leaders. They are the publicity agents for the church's faults and failures.

5. There are the "Weather Vain Members." They change positions at every wind of doctrine. They have no convictions, no set of working principles. They are the compromisers, "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Timothy 3:7).

6. There are the "Cooperative Members." They have zeal and are willing to try anything, but they have not been trained to do anything. They are good runners, but they have no message to convey.

7. Then, there are the "Spiritual Members"—true, genuine, unassuming Christians, who work lovingly and efficiently wherever they may fit in. They gladly accept any appointment. They expect that the Lord will give them the wisdom and ability to perform it acceptably.

Happy is the church where these last are in the ruling majority.

Selected by Brother Dean and Sister Anna Lee Flora



Wheat must fall under the grinder before it can rise as bread.

THE SACRIFICE OF CAIN

I was recently asked why Cain's offering "of the fruit of the ground" was not acceptable to God as a sacrifice as recorded in Genesis chapter 4. Some have theorized that it was not accepted because the ground was cursed. This is a plausible position, but later when God establishes the worship of Himself among the Jews He commands and fully accepts grain and first fruit offerings. This theory about Cain's offering makes God inconsistent with Himself and demands violence to the scriptures to rationalize it.

Another theory says that the earth belongs to Satan and thus for God to accept the fruit of the ground is to accept an offering from Satan. First the Jewish temple worship mentioned above argues against this theory. Second, the earth does not belong to Satan. The earth is a very good creation of God. (Genesis 1) The earth shows forth the eternal power and Godhead of God. (Romans 1:20) It is God who controls the ultimate destiny of the earth. (II Peter 3:10-11) The idea that Satan owns the earth may come from passages such as Matthew 4:8-9 (and related verses in other gospels) where Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth. Satan only controls the kingdoms through the bondage of sin and the fear of death. Kingdoms are different than the creation itself.

The idea may come from passages such as John 12:31, 14:30 and 16:11 where Satan is called the prince of this world. This does not make him owner of the creation, but it does credit him with power in the world. Scripture names him specifically as "the prince of the air working in the children of disobedience." (Ephesians 2:2) Satan is as much "of this world" as we are. God, however, is seen in and beyond creation itself. (Romans 1:20) The only thing Satan has created or is the "father of", and therefore can claim ownership of, is lies. (John 8:44) Therefore Cain's sacrifice has nothing to do with Satan being in control of the earth.

To understand why Cain's offering is not acceptable to God we must not ask what Cain is sacrificing as much as why Cain (and Abel) are making a sacrifice at all?

Genesis 4:3-5a reads: "And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and

of the fat there of. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But to Cain and to his offering he had not respect."

Why do Cain and Abel bring an offering as grown men? I believe it is because Adam and Eve instructed them in how to worship God as any good parent should. To understand this we must go back to the Fall after which God clothes Adam and Eve with animal skins. Genesis 3:21, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothed them." God did not magically produce these skins out of the air or some heavenly wardrobe. God killed a minimum of one animal so Adam and Eve could live.

God had said in Genesis 2:18 that Adam would surely die if he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Critics of the Bible say that this would not happen so God must have told a lie. Many Christians spiritualize the death and point to the book of Romans where we are told that through Adam death passed unto all men. Certainly Adam and Eve suffered the death of relationship to God, to each other, to the earth, to the garden — the list of losses goes on and on. What is missed is that on that day, something did die. It was the animals who gave their skins for Adam and Eve. God in His great love and mercy killed an animal (maybe two) for Adam and Eve's sin — instead of Adam and Eve. We are not told what kind of animal, but more than likely it was a lamb — the most harmless of animals. What happened to the carcasses? I do not believe God would have left them to rot. On that day God probably instructed Adam and Eve in proper sacrifice and worship techniques. They probably worshipped like that for the rest of their lives. The traditions were passed on from generation to generation. It was from this start that cultures throughout the history of the earth have some concept of animal sacrifice in the worship of the gods. It explains why Noah knows how to sacrifice after the flood (Genesis 8:20) and Abraham who comes from Ur or Balaam son of Beor. (Numbers 22-24)

Years later — in the process of time — Adam and Eve's grown sons, with their own occupations, offer a sacrifice. Some theologians believe this was at the east gate of the Garden of Eden where the Cherubim and a flaming sword "turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Genesis 3:24) Why do they sacrifice? Be-

cause Adam and Eve had taught their boys the meaning of worship. Why is Abel's accepted? Because the lamb was acceptable — possibly the only acceptable offering — to God.

Cain, on the other hand, ignores the directives of God and worships in self-will, pride and meaningless ritual. Cain disobeys his parent's teachings — a sin punishable by death in the Old Testament. (Exodus 21:17, Leviticus 20:9, Deuteronomy 27:16) and listed as a sin that keeps people from Heaven in the New Testament (Romans 1:28-32 specifically verse 30, II Timothy 3:1-5 specifically verse 2) Cain brings what HE wants to bring to God and not what God has asked for. He performs the ritual of sacrifice, but is not really in a mode of worship.

God's question to Cain in Genesis 4:7, "If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?" indicates that Cain knows what doing well is. If he did not know the proper way to sacrifice he could not do well. The bottom line is, that Cain does not want to do well. He is in rebellion against God. God speaks to Cain's condition in 4:7 when He talks about sin lying at the door and wanting to rule over Abel. The murder of Abel proves the condition of Cain's heart just as the sacrifice does.

Cain's sin of sacrificing in self-will, pride and meaningless ritual may have been the first, but it certainly is not the last. In II Timothy 3:1-5 mentioned above where disobedience to parents is listed as a sin the context is very significant.

Verse one reads, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." Almost all Christians today, who are wise according to scripture, believe that we are in the last days. Verses 2-4 list the condition of the heart of men. The description is a very accurate account of the situation of modern day society. It is a revealing catalog worthy of study in itself — ending with "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." (This is possibly a statement about Christians in the last day.) But verse 5 reads, "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power there of: from such turn away."

The apostate church in whatever denomination, local congregation or individual life it plays out is guilty of Cain's sin. Those Christians dictate to God how they will worship, what is sin and what isn't, and will rationalize away scripture to tickle their own ears.

Often they place heavy emphasis on ritual over lifestyle, tradition or science over scripture, and formalism over piety.

Even by us in the plain church Cain's sin can be committed. For example: when the "order" takes precedence over obedience, when the why-we've-always-done-it is no longer in conformity to scripture, when united appearance and formality of religion replaces the heart, soul, body, mind and strength being enjoined in the love of God and obedience to His commands being lived out in relationship to others. It is something to think about. Is our life a living sacrifice holy and acceptable unto God? (Romans 12:1) It is, after all, the only sacrifice acceptable to God now that Christ has become our sacrifice for sin. It is our reasonable service. It is the only way to worship.

Brother Steven R. Kooistra

THE EYES OF MAN

I have already written of the eyes of God upon us, both for good and for ill. I will try to write of the eyes of men, both for good or for ill.

Psalm 119:18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." God has given us a great and precious gift, in giving us eyes to see. But, there is more to seeing than the images that focus upon our brain, through our natural eyes.

We may read the Bible regularly, and still not see wondrous things that are given to our view, except the Holy Spirit guides us.

Satan promised Eve, that her eyes would be opened, and she would be as gods to know good and evil. He is a liar and the father of it.

So today we must choose what we see. Either the wondrous things of God, or the deceitful wonders of an evil world. Psalm 101:3, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne

of God." This exhortation to keep our eyes upon Him is echoed in many other scriptures.

The writer of Hebrews declares, "But we see Jesus." And Jeremiah says in chapter 29, verse 13, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

Job's great longing to seek God is expressed in chapter 23:1-10. And in chapter 19:25-27 expresses a firm belief that he would see God. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."

But when it was given to him to see God he saw also his own blemishes, and said, chapter 42:5-6, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

We also have a great cloud of witnesses of things not seen by the natural eye, but by the eye of faith. These give us encouragement to look to Jesus.

If we profess to be followers of Christ we must remember that the eyes of the world are upon us. Jesus said, Matt. 5:14-16, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Paul declared in Acts 13:47, "For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth."

Phil. 2:15, "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

I Peter 2:11-12, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works,

which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation."

Can the world see Jesus in you?

What is the gospel according to you?

As we close this article a reminder that every eye shall see him. Rev. 1:7, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen." And Rev. 6:15-17, "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

But it shall be a grand and glorious day for the faithful. I John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

So let us continue to trust in him, and so live that we may always sing:

Face to face with Christ my Savior,
Face to face what will it be?
When with rapture I behold Him,
Jesus Christ who died for me.

Only faintly now I see Him,
With the darkling veil between,
But a blessed day is coming,
When His glory shall be seen.

What rejoicing in His presence,
When are banished grief and pain;
When the crooked ways are straightened,
And the dark things shall be plain.

Face to face! O blissful moment!
Face to face to see and know,
Faith to face with my Redeemer,
Jesus Christ who loves me so.

Face to face I shall behold Him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all His glory,
I shall see Him by and by!

May we all be a part of that blessed host, is the prayer of your unworthy servant.

Brother William Carpenter

ASK GOD FOR GREAT THINGS

Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you..."

Children of God desire to please their Father in Heaven. An honest Christian will not ask for foolish things, but it is not wrong to ask for great things if in doing so we give honor and glory unto God. Jesus said in Matthew 21:21-22, "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

What a wonderful portion of scripture this is, and yet we do not believe it, perhaps because we never have seen it happen. Jesus healed all manner of diseases and caused people to rise from the dead. Very little of such is seen today.

What did Jesus do that was of greatest importance? Simply, He regenerated sinful hearts and caused people to be Born from Above. Healing and raising people from the dead were only types and shadows of Spiritual healing, the Spiritual being more important than the physical. Yet He loves us and knows our daily struggles. Nothing is beyond Him or too hard for Him. It is not too difficult for God to heal us, but it is oftentimes too difficult for us to believe we can be healed. Ask God for Great Things.

Can a mountain be moved and cast into the sea? If it is the will of Almighty God, yes, it can. If God can do it, and nothing is too hard for Him, why then do we not believe it? Ask, and it shall be given you. Often, as children, we did not ask our earthly father for certain things, knowing he could not afford them. But as Christians:

Our Father is rich in houses and lands:

He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!

A tent or a cottage, why should I care:

He's building a palace for me over there!

It is impossible for us to conceive of the power and majesty of our Father in Heaven! If we read in the Revelation the description of Heaven we have to wonder if our small minds can understand even a tiny portion of it, yet high church theologians in all their robed majesty talk of Heaven as if it were nothing. Perhaps they do not know the author of the Bible.

Our God built the Heavens and the earth in six days. He could have done it in six minutes or six seconds if He had wanted to, but He took a bit of time to admire His handiwork. Yet the learned "Holy man" of this day does not think God is capable of such a miracle. To him, God created these things through millions of years of evolution. Someday the scholar will have to stand before God and explain why he did not think God could make everything in six days or why the whale did not swallow Jonah, or why Moses did not part the Red Sea, or why Jesus did not rise from the grave.

Ask for Great Things. Our God is great. We are His children. He loves us and wants us to glorify Him. Many ask for riches, but do riches glorify God? Jesus had no earthly home after He began His ministry, but every need was supplied. The taxes were paid and food was on the table. Do we ask Him to supply our needs or do we ask Him to supply our wants? Which is greater, that we have a big, beautiful house to live in or that we see our family or neighbors saved? We work hard for the big house, yet how much are we upon our knees for our family and friends?

All things are possible with God. We can believe Him. We can trust in His Word. He said, do not be afraid to ask. Do we trust Him?

We must also remember that we must meet God's conditions. John 15:7 says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Not just anyone can ask God for Great Things. We must abide in Him. John 14:23 says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

Truly, we have a Wonderful Saviour. He has provided all things for us. It is because of Jesus Christ that we can draw nigh unto the Father. We must not take these blessings for granted, but we must "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith." (Hebrews 10:22)

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17078-9162

A CHOICE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Genesis 14:17-23, "And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:"

This account in Genesis along with the information pertaining to it found in the book of Hebrews 7:1-11 is a source of much controversy and speculation. Most of the discussion usually is concerned with trying to determine who Melchisedec was. There are five major opinions that have been offered by various Bible theolo-

gians and scholars. According to these, Melchisedec may have been an angel, The Holy Ghost, Jesus Christ Himself, (known as a theophany), Shem, the son of Noah or a Canaanite king. The latter choice is the one most favored by modern day commentators.

While the discussion of who Melchisedec was is one of great interest, we believe a valuable lesson may be missed by ignoring the other individual who plays a prominent part in this account. This, of course, is the king of Sodom. Melchisedec, whoever he was, represents that which is good while the king of Sodom represents that which is evil. Abram, who was later Abraham, had to make a choice between the two and so do we.

First of all, we find that Melchisedec "brought forth bread and wine." This was probably nourishment for the body of Abram. Our God has promised to supply our every need. But we are prone to use human effort and even less than godly methods to attain our bodily needs (many times greeds). When our finances get tight the first place many cut back is in their offerings to the Lord and helping those in need. We may be tempted to use unethical and questionable methods of attaining money or making it go further. We do not believe that the teaching that God wants all of His children to be rich is scriptural. In fact, the Bible warns against riches. When opportunity to increase our goods is offered let us examine our motives and if any compromise is involved. Let us say to evil as Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich."

Next we see that Melchizedec was the priest of the most high God. The king of Sodom can be seen as an example of humanism and false religion. We find that the king of Sodom had other kings with him while Melchizedec was all alone. It is not popular in many religious circles to say emphatically that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven and that the Holy Bible (preferably the King James version) is the only source of Truth. The king of Sodom entreated Abram to "Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself." This reminds us of Satan's offer to the Lord Jesus Christ, "If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine." When the offer to worship evil with a promise of personal gain comes our way let us answer even as our Lord answered Satan. "Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt

thou worship."

After Abram's encounter with Melchizedek he "gave him tithes of all." The hymn writer Elisha A. Hoffman asks the question,

"Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?

Your heart, does the Spirit control?"

He then responds with the heavenly truth of,

"You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,

As you yield Him your body and soul."

When the "king of Sodom" comes to us with an offer let us affirm with Abram, "I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord." Let us choose good and not evil.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

"Suffering"

Many Christians feel that suffering should not be a part of the life of a Christian. They feel they "deserve better" if they are going to be a follower of Christ. They do not seem to understand that it is part of the refining fire of life and that it may be necessary in order to understand the difference between earth and heaven. "To have suffered much is like knowing many languages: it gives the sufferer access to many more people!"

From the dawn of creation, suffering has been a frustrating human problem. It has many consequences, depending on our understanding of it. Many people have turned completely away from God because of their own suffering or the suffering of others. They have denounced faith in God and divine providence. Some others have become cynical and some agnostic. Yet, others have become mellowed, sweetened and refined under suffering's white-hot heat.

Suffering can not control us. Its control depends completely on our view of it.

People are especially confused at the suffering of "good people."

These are people who have seemingly done nothing to "deserve" adversity and pain. They have never stolen anything, have not been unkind to anyone or knowingly trespassed on another person's rights. Yet they suffer with problems of perpetual heartaches and physical and emotional debilities. At the same time, others who are real culprits seem to thrive physically, financially, emotionally and socially. Is this justice from a loving and just God?

The answer is not simple but there can be no question that we must keep our faith sharply whetted on an unswerving belief in God's absolute sovereignty and His understanding and care about our problems. God's purposes are often obscure. The most common reaction to suffering is, "What have I done to deserve this?" Unless we carefully read and fully believe God's Word, the Scripture says we can not answer these questions.

A classic example of a man who had grave doubts about God's goodness, but who eventually emerged from his grueling trials with increased faith is Job. After his "Gethsemane" he said, "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Job learned, as most of us do, that there are faults, failures and evil tendencies which need to be subdued or eradicated. There are weaknesses which require great corrective measures if they are to be prevented from destroying us.

God acts in our lives much like a flame thrower that is used to kill weeds. There are weeds in our lives that need to be destroyed so the fruit of the Spirit can grow. The heat takes care of the noxious weeds around the periphery of the field so the good crop can grow.

When we have reached a certain stage of maturity will the heat be lessened or will it no longer be applied? Because we are human, there will always be impurities in our lives and God will need to allow the weeds to be burned. He will never cease to extract a harvest of golden and ripe grain. He shows Himself mighty and faithful in all of this purification.

Yet we have a great promise that He will not "suffer us to be tempted above that we are able to bear." This simply means that some people can stand a hotter fire than others.

If we did not believe God was able to safeguard our spiritual interests, could we ever accept Him as our Heavenly Father? If our lives are to bear fruit for His glory, we must be able to accept Job's philosophy: "He knows the way I take." That assures us He is never asleep, never disinterested.

Before an athlete can successfully compete in a sport, he must undergo a long period of strenuous training. The conditioning process is difficult and sometimes painful. Yet, how many of us Christians want God to make us great Christians without any training, hardships, blows or adversities?

Effective training for something as important as the disciplined, Christian walk always involves hardships but this is essential. Because of Adamic sin, there is going to be unpleasant experiences along the way.

God is not cruel because He allows adversities. He allows the rough slag to be chiseled off our lives and we become useful and beautiful.

God is our maker and molder. He has machined us perfectly. He has a design for us into which we cannot fit without a long and grueling process. And, when He is finished with us, we will fit exactly where we should be. He does not tell us ahead of time what our final task or purpose is, because we have to learn to totally trust and lean upon Him. As Job stated so profoundly, "He knows every detail of what is happening to me and when He has tried me, I shall come forth as pure gold."

May God bless us as we are refined and become more fit for His use.

Brother Len Wertz

TIME

Time changes things on this earth. When we were babies we were cute and cuddly. Everybody loved us. When we get old, wrinkly and tottery, we feel we are in the way.

I can remember the first airplane that flew over our community about the year 1918. I can remember when our mail man drove a

1912 Ford roadster to bring our mail over muddy and snowy roads. Sometimes when the roadster could not make it through, the mail man would get out of the roadster, put the mail bag on his back and carry the mail to the houses.

Today we have a good macadam road that we can travel the year around. Those were the days when children walked. I walked or ran two miles to the one-room, one-teacher school house for five years and received my seventh grade diploma. I learned to read, write, spell and many other subjects when my parents did not need me on the farm. I received much of my grade school education by lamplight at the dining room table after the work was done and the dishes were washed.

Automobiles were scarce. My parents bought their first Ford touring car when I was twelve years old, the year I was through school. There were schools of higher education but they were not available to everyone so I did not get a high school education at that time.

How times have changed for man. What we call time does not apply to God, because He is eternal—He lives on and on and on, a thousand years is as one day with Him. Since we are a part of His creation and He breathed into man's nostrils a part of His life and made man to serve Him forever, we too will live eternally. Even though our earthly life will be terminated in this world by an earthly death, the soul will be given a spirit body at the day of resurrection when all things are made new.

This life time has been given us by God as a proving ground to try us whether we will be faithful to Him eternally. It has been given so we may use our earthly time for good or evil, to the glory of God or the glory of man and Satan. Time costs us nothing, and pays us nothing. That is determined as we rightly or wrongly use it.

God gave man six thousand years of time. That six thousand years has almost marched by. What has man done with it? The first bad move was to let Satan in. He has been busy deceiving and controlling the world's inhabitants ever since, I am happy to read in the Bible of the godly men and women who did not let Satan rule in their lives. It also tells of people, like King David, who repented and returned to serving the Lord.

I am thankful for the few in our day who are still standing on Bible teachings of God's commandments. But many believe they can do their own thing and still be saved if they believe there is a Christ. When we love someone we try to please them and do nice things for them. So it is with Christ. If we really believe in Him and love Him, we will keep His commandments. If we do not keep His sayings He knows we do not deserve His blessings of salvation and eternal life in those mansions of gold and pearls that He has been preparing for us for hundreds of years.

Time gives us opportunity to accrue money and valuables of this world. How are we using these valuables? To the honor and glory of God, or are we using them for our own pleasure in this world? It might be such things as expensive cars that take us to places of worldly amusements that are not to the honor and glory of God, but rather are the works of the devil. Maybe that pleasure is the television or VCR, so people can sit in idleness while they watch the filth of the world. Many deck themselves with pride which costs enormously at the beauty parlors (so called). The women have their hair cut, the men let their hair grow long, just the opposite of what God has told us in His Word. They hang jewelry on their necks, wrists, fingers and toe nails to go along with the almost nude garb many are wearing.

Flee the danger, there is trouble ahead! How sad our Lord must be after being crucified on the cruel cross, shedding His life-blood for mankind of this world when He looks down and sees man spending their life work and effort for such trifles with which to serve Satan.

It is no wonder that the time will soon come when our Lord's angel will announce that time shall be no more. The masses of people will find themselves outside the kingdom of God and be crying "Lord we did wonderful things in your name, we ate with the righteous, we prophesied, we cast out devils, and we healed the sick in your name, you should save us now," but He will answer them, "Depart from me I never knew you." Matt. 7:21-24, Luke 13:25-26. What a disappointment when they find out they have been deceived. They will find that Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people and they had not spent their time on earth as their

Lord had admonished them in His Word—the Bible.

Read the BIBLE. Do what the BIBLE says. Spend your time, your talents, your blessings for the good of God's kingdom. In faith believing, with a heart's desire, they willingly obey and follow the Master all the way. Then we will have the wonderful feeling of being accepted of Him who will reward us for eternity.

If we do not enjoy living and witnessing in all the ways we can here while we are in this world, during this dispensation, I do not believe we would enjoy the new earth or Heaven where all laws and acts will be according to the plans of God without Satanic pride or our worldly pleasures mixed in to entertain and destroy us.

Which destination is your soul bound for today? Are we thoroughly washed in the soul-cleansing-blood of the Lamb of God? Or are we just partially cleansed? We cannot serve two masters, we will hate the one and serve the other. Matt. 6:24, Luke 16:13. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. I John 2:15. What do we represent? Are we spotted with the world, and worldly doings, or are we happily going about our Lord's work looking and acting as He did as He went about His Father's work while He was on earth? Let us do our best to be like Him and let our light shine bright. If we cannot be a moon, then let's be a star. Then we will have peace with God, joy in our hearts and minds, and we can travel the remainder of life's journey rejoicing as we go, knowing that all will be well with us at the journey's end. Then we will begin an eternal life with our Redeemer and loved ones. Glory Hallelujah!

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

AFRICAN MISSION UPDATE REPORT

We arrived in Kenya late Monday night, September 22, and stayed in Nairobi overnight in a motel. Tuesday we shopped for prices for a potential vehicle and then traveled to Kapenguria district, staying in Makutano. On Wednesday, we looked at five properties in the area for potential mission residence, but finally concluded that we should rent rather than purchase at least until we are registered properly in the country.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday were spent traveling to and visiting the churches surrounding the Kapenguria area, Chepkorniswo, Kiptoi, Chesubet, Kaptalamuwa, and Ortum. Members from Sondany came to Ortum while we visited the church there. Chesubet was many miles in on a mountainous, narrow, dirt road. Ortum is located in a semi-arid setting similar to Torreon. Sondany is located on a mountain top, nearly 10,000 feet high. It can only be reached after a long, strenuous, six-hour, hike each way.

On Sunday we had baptism. We baptized some from two of the congregations. Sunday evening, we surrounded the Lovefeast tables, for the first time in Kenya. Needless to say things were a bit different than they are at home. The tables consisted of three, small, card-table-sized tables. The rest of the tables consisted of benches placed end to end between two rows of chairs. Preparations were made and utensils were purchased for approximately sixty communicants, but approximately eighty-seven crowded around the narrow tables.

The feet washing went slowly, as we tried to communicate that we should have four towels (each consisting of two towels sewn together). We ended up with two towels of two sewn together. One for each table.

The meal consisted of a little bit of beef, rice with a thin Kenyan style soup broth, and chapatti, a common fried unleavened bread. Since there were insufficient utensils, a number shared the meal using their fingers for utensils (a common practice in the area). They lacked water to wash their hands after meal as would be their normal practice.

The sisters made communion bread for the first time, although without a proper recipe. Bro. Paul and I told them what we thought the ingredients consisted of. They made a trial run. The bread, while not like ours, was considered acceptable. Another, but larger, batch was made for Lovefeast. The loaves of bread were quite small, so they had to be rationed carefully in order to reach around for all the communicants.

We had purchased five quarts of grape juice. We had instructed them that they were only to drink a small amount. We ended up with over four quarts that was not used. Communications?!

On Monday, we went to Uganda. Andrew, Hosea and their wives, and Frederick accompanied us to Kampala. Unfortunately, they did not have passports, so it took nearly three hours for them to obtain clearance to cross the border into Uganda. Fortunately, we had left early enough that we were not too late for our 3:00 P.M. appointment in Uganda.

We spent Monday afternoon, Tuesday and Wednesday, meeting with the various church groups, as well as hunting sponsored students and schools. Finding one's way, even if only several blocks away can be very frustrating. Addresses are often post office boxes, or a shared address of a public building, such as a church. Locating anything specific becomes very time consuming and difficult. We were searching for one school. We had given up, seemingly getting nowhere close. But as we left, and began traveling down the road for the next item on our agenda, we happened to see the sign for the school, which no one seemed to know where it was located.

Overall, we had a typical African trip. One moment we were glad and rejoicing that we were able to be there, and the next moment wondering what we were accomplishing. As individuals and as a Church, we must be extremely cautious as we work with the Africans. While many appear to have great spiritual interests, many of them are but in reality wanting to build empires, gain a position, prestige, or simply to line their own pockets.

Their culture is different from ours in many ways. African honesty is quite different from what we consider honesty. Corruption abounds in the government, as well as in everyday society. Unfortunately, these cultural aspects even affect the churches, even "those who would desire to work with you" in the work of the Lord. This, of course, on some occasions is for their own personal benefit. They have no qualms for asking for large amounts of money, for surely America is rich and can give them whatever they desire.

In view of their culture, many things we see, hear and experience, do not make sense to us, for things are truly different in Africa. Their sense of values, the cost of living, some commodities being very cheap, while others are extremely expensive. Discerning what is happening and interpreting what is being said, is vastly

different from things and happenings and experiences in America. In the midst of all of this, decisions need to be made, direction given, and men entrusted with the work of the Lord. How much we need the Lord's guidance, as well as someone there to better learn and know and interpret what is happening in Africa as we labor in the Lord's kingdom.

Wednesday evening, we left for Entebbe, and began our journey home. God blessed us with a safe trip, and we felt His leading along the way. While the results were not always what we desired, for we experienced many disappointments, just as we do at home, we rejoice in the accomplishments of the past year.

Brother Rudy Shaffer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1997

December 7 - Jesus Christ; Eternally The Same - Hebrews 13:1-13.

1. "For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats." Explain.
2. How do we bear the reproach of Jesus Christ?

December 14 - Seeking A City To Come - Hebrews 13:14-25.

1. What is "the sacrifice of praise" that we are to offer to God continually?
2. With what sacrifices is God well pleased?

December 21 - The Birth Of Christ - Luke 2:1-20.

1. Why was the Son of God born in a stable?
2. Why were the shepherds chosen to receive the news of Christ's birth?

December 28 - Faithful In Temptations - James 1:1-16.

1. Why should we "count it all joy" when we fall into divers temptations?
2. Explain the "perfect work" of patience.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1997

December 7 - Fruit Bearing - John 15:1-8, Psalm 1:3, Gal. 5:22-26.

1. What does the type of fruit tell us about the producer of the fruit?
2. What fruit can man produce without Jesus Christ?

December 14 - The Good Shepherd - John 10:1-16.

1. What are the purposes of the wall of the sheep fold?
2. What are the purposes of the door of the sheep fold?

December 21 - The Birth Of Christ - Luke 2:1-20.

1. Why are the shepherds given a sign for finding the new born Saviour?
2. What caused the shepherds to go and tell others about the birth of the Christ child?

December 28 - Memories - I Cor. 15:1-11, Ecl. 12:1, II Thess. 2:15-17.

1. Why is our ability to remember things so important to our Spiritual life?
2. How can Satan wrongfully use our human memory against us?



Sound does travel slower than light. The advice parents give to their eighteen year olds doesn't reach them until they are about forty years old.

I set out to find a friend, but could not find one. I set out to be a friend and friends were every where.

Proverbs 1:10, "My son, if sinners entice you, do not give into them."

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C. Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C. Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Mike Wray, Secretary
R.5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Ray Stuber
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, PA 17356

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St. John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Paul Nell
Woodland Drive
R6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, PA 17403
(913) 675-3600

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
R 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Rudy Shaffer, Chairman
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Ray R. Reed, Secretary
302 Percival
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Mark Andrews, Treasurer
24407 South Overfelt Road
Peculiar, MO 64078

All contributions to the various boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Dunkard Brethren Church
14 E. Main St.
North East, PA 16428

Address Service Requested

ISS-7

NONPROFIT

Postage

PAID

Permit #158

North East, PA



Elam Moss
4254 Richmond Palestine Rd
New Madison OH 45346-9608

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXV

DECEMBER 1997

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Scriptural in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
--	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ALL HAIL! HAPPY DAY

All hail! happy day, When enrobed in our clay
The Redeemer appeared upon earth;
How can we refrain To unite in the strain,
And to hail our Immanuel's birth!

Ye angels of God, Sound his praises abroad,
And acknowledge him JAH, the I AM.
We also will join In a hymn so divine,
Giving glory to God and the Lamb!

O may the return Of this once blessed morn
Be forever remembered with joy;
Sweet accents of praise All our voices shall raise;
Hallelujahs shall be our employ.

Let echo prolong The harmonious song—
Hallelujah again and again,
He kindles the fire, Whom the nations desire,
And to him we devote the glad strain.

-Charles Wesley

ON A HILL FAR AWAY

"On a hill far away," reminds us of "The Old Rugged Cross." Before that cross could have meaning there were shepherds tending their sheep on the far-away hillside outside Bethlehem. Those shepherds were the recipients of the angels' message of "Peace on earth, Good will to men." Those two hills located only a few miles from each other illustrate the real message of God's love come down to man.

The lowly shepherds were doing their common, everyday task of watching over their flocks that evening. Their quiet vigil was interrupted by the sudden appearance of the angels of Heaven. These angels brought forth a message that mankind had been looking forward to for many centuries. There had been many prophecies given since God had first made his promise in the Garden of Eden, before Adam and Eve were driven out because of their sin. In that perfect place which they had forfeited through disobedience, God told them that eventually there would come the one who would have dominion over Satan. Although Satan had been victorious in the Garden, he was ultimately doomed to failure. God would provide the means that Adam and Eve's descendants could overcome their sin.

As God had provided the covering for their nakedness by slaying an animal, so He would provide their robes of righteousness through the slaying of His Son. There was the shedding of blood in

THE BIBLE MONITOR

DECEMBER 1997

Published semi-monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 14 E. Main St., North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$2.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.

ROBERT S. LEHIGH, Assistant Editor; R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362.

MARLIN MARKS, Associate Editor; 3027 Acorn Lane, Red Lion, PA 17356.

DENNIS ST. JOHN, Associate Editor; 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506.

providing their physical clothing. There was the shedding of Jesus' blood to provide their Spiritual clothing.

The message of the angels was one of peace. They announced the arrival of the Prince of Peace upon the Earth. He had been with the Father in Heaven. He had participated in the creation of this world. Now He would come to dwell for a generation upon that earth. He came with the intention of bringing peace between God and fallen man.

Since the fall in the Garden, men had been separated from God. Their only hope was the Law of Moses. That law was the best available, but it was faulty. It was still the Grace of God that made it of value. The law could only point out sin. It contained sacrifices that ultimately looked forward to the sacrifice of Jesus. Only through Jesus could mankind have a relationship with God. He came to bring peace, but men spurned Him.

God showed that He was willing to provide for the good of mankind. This was His message of goodwill. He was more interested in the Spiritual well-being of mankind than they were. Men have many ideas about what would be for their good. Usually these ideas have been flawed. They have not taken into account what God would have men to do.

The shepherds were invited to worship Him. These lowly shepherds were given an opportunity, not given to the famous and powerful. It may have been nearly two years before King Herod learned that a greater king than himself was alive in his country. The shepherds were associated with the care of their sheep. They would be seeing the one who would be the Good Shepherd. He spoke of the shepherd's care of his sheep. He also spoke of His care for the lowly, defenseless sheep.

This event was announced on the hillside not far from Bethlehem. Approximately thirty-three years later that message would be fulfilled on another hill, just outside Jerusalem. Jesus would be crucified, hanging between heaven and earth on the accursed tree. On Calvary His blood would flow as the cleanser for our sins. His blood would be more effective than all the animal blood sacrificed by men since the Garden of Eden. He was the perfect sacrifice. He was the Lamb without spot or blemish. He was the Son of God, not the

son of Joseph, therefore He was qualified to be that perfect sacrifice. He was not just the Good Shepherd, but also the Lamb of God slain for man's sins.

At this season of the year when much is said about the Babe born in Bethlehem, let us remember not only the message that was delivered to the Shepherds by the Heavenly Host. Let us remember that other hill where that message was fulfilled. For no fault of His own, Jesus was sacrificed as God's Perfect sin offering.

God accepted His sacrifice. This was shown in His resurrection. Afterward He ascended to His rightful place at the Father's right hand in Heaven. There He awaits the time when He will come to Earth the second time. This time He will come in wrath and judgment. Those who would not accept what He offered at His first coming will face the terrible wrath of God.

On one hillside the shepherds heard the message of God's gift to the human race. On the other hill, the terrible price was paid that God's will might be done.

Have you profited by the events connected with those two hills?

M.C.Cook

A HEAVENLY BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Next to the obituary section of a newspaper, the most avidly read section is probably the birth announcements. Under normal circumstances there is no greater joy than the arrival of a new born baby. The joyful experience, however, is limited to the family involved and perhaps a few acquaintances. But the heavenly birth announcement recorded in the Holy Scriptures brought joy and hope to all the world.

The announcement was first made to the virgin Mary, as recorded in Luke 1:26-27, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a

virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."

Though she could not comprehend the full reality of this event, her response was, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." In our present day the virgin Mary is both exalted to a position contrary to that taught in Holy Scriptures and debased to a woman of ill repute. Along with her cousin Elizabeth we can affirm, "Blessed art thou among women." But we must reject any attempt to make the virgin Mary a co-intercessor. Recent attempts to have her recognized as co-redeemer is no less than blasphemy.

The second individual to receive the announcement was Joseph as recorded in Matthew 1:18-20, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."

The Scriptures make it very clear that Joseph was not the father of Jesus Christ. To make it absolutely certain no such thought would be allowed Matthew 1:25 reads, "And (Joseph) knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus." Joseph had to accept the birth announcement by faith. Likewise we have to accept the record of Holy Scriptures by faith. Human reasoning will result in doubt.

The next to receive the heavenly birth announcement was probably the shepherds as recorded in Luke 2:8-11. "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

There were also wise men who somehow learned of the birth of Christ. But the Scriptures are silent as to how this knowledge was actually acquired. Whether of the elite or the common folks, as most of us are, the heavenly birth announcement gave an assurance of the possibility of salvation for all.

God announced the birth of His Son to the world many years before its happening through the Old Testament prophets. Two of the most familiar passages are Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

We have presented to you a heavenly birth announcement. Unlike other birth announcements it has life changing possibilities. What will you do with this announcement? If you are already an adopted son or daughter will you share this life changing event with others? He was born a king. Is He king of your life?

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

GOOD NEWS

Howard Surbey

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11-12. Tidings mean: news, advice, information (Webster). News is something that people are anxious for, especially if it is good news. It would be astonishing today to know the amount of money and time that is spent for news and even then much of it is not good news. However whether news is good or not, depends much upon the individual. In fact most of us are not able to determine what news is good and what is not. Actually it is often a question whether news, that we hear, is even true or not.

At the time of our text, Caesar ruled the known world but God

over-ruled Caesar. God not only rules the news but He rules the making of news, perhaps many, many years before it happens. Years before our text God had declared through the prophets, that His Son should be born of a virgin, in the city of Bethlehem. Mary, who was chosen to be His mother, lived far north in Nazareth but God through the decree of Caesar, brought her to Bethlehem just at the right time. Caesar had only the need of revenue and the honor of knowing how many were his subjects, in mind when making his stern ruling. God realized how He could influence various individuals to work so as to fulfill the many prophecies, which normally could never be all fulfilled at once; and thus deliver His Son to mankind in such a way that He never could be mistaken for someone else, nor someone else for Him.

Those who greatly desire God in their lives are the ones through whom God will work. God knows whether our heart is humble and submissive to His Will or not, and Mary was one such person. Did you ever meditate over the fact that Heaven is more interested in the salvation of men than men are themselves. Man so often lacks faith in God and he will not allow God to rule his life. Man is so concerned with his own opinion of himself and his weak and carnal ideas, that he cannot recognize good tidings. Most of man's trials and troubles today come because he does not properly appreciate and use the good things, which God has made available unto him for every phase of life.

Through man's disobedience a severe curse was pronounced upon men. Through man's obedience a cure has been sent, not only for the Adamic curse but for all others. It is sad as man labors in life, that he does not remedy his shortcomings but gradually gets deeper in them. The only redemption the only cure, must come from a wiser, more understanding Power. Have you ever meditated upon the fact, that all man's higher accomplishments have come from the mighty hand of God. God has promised so much to man but usually man cannot wait and trust in God, until He sees fit to accomplish His purposes in man. God and man must work together to accomplish God's holy and eternal plans.

God sent, through His angel, good tidings of great joy, to all people. A very, very small part of humanity accepted the tidings as

good and therefore very few received any joy from them. The shepherds in the field, Mary the mother, Simeon and Anna in the temple, the wise Men in the east; all accepted the news which God sent and we feel they each received much joy from this news. The relatives of Elizabeth marveled at some of this good news, those who heard the shepherds story wondered at the things they told, many heard the great prophecies of Simeon and Anna; but each group paid little attention to what they heard. Herod and his rulers feared what affect it might have upon his power, so these glad tidings brought no joy to either of these groups.

Do the good tidings of God bring similar responses in human beings today, even in this enlightening age? What percentage of humanity will even accept the New Testament, as delivered unto man by Christ and His apostles, as the truth? Of these, what percentage will accept this truth as good tidings? Of these few, what percentage will accept its details as for them individually? Of these even, how few really receive great joy from them, do not many Christian professors regard God's commandments as a burden and lament over the effort necessary to fulfill them? How many human beings feel they would be better off if God would leave them alone, to receive their joys from whence they wish?

Man's lack of faith in God corrupts his mind so that he cannot recognize what is really good and what is not. The earth declares the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork, but few receive much consolation and joy from it. Everything of God and about God pleases the true-hearted, for they know that all good things come from God and that He gives them everything that is for their good. The Saviour coming down to the earth and taking on the form of flesh, to teach man God's Will and to shed His blood for the forgiveness of man's sins, that he might again be reconciled in the mind of God, was the greatest gift of God to us.

He was also the Prince of Peace and man will never realize peace upon the earth unless he lives as Christ and the apostles taught. Did you ever meditate over the fact, that the only years of peace which the Roman Empire enjoyed were the years when Christ was there upon the earth in the flesh? Can we expect peace of heart, peace in the home and peace among nations if the commandments of Christ are not carried out? Good will and the will to

do good are heavenly. God has these, do you and I? Today our best News is that which God still offers, to those who will trust and obey. Today man still accepts this good News of God similarly to the way they accepted it 2000 years ago; a few hear, believe and accept the teachings of the New Testament; some hear and wonder; ;some become antagonistic to God; but most of the people just continue in their own ways.

Today the world and particularly Christian America, has set aside a day, Christmas, to commemorate the birth of our Lord and God giving the Gift of His Son to humanity, as their Saviour. How much of the commemorations of this day is reserved for thanks, praise and homage to our Lord for His great sacrifice of coming down to this earth. What, you say "very little" among even Christian professors? Is that the way a commemoration is held for the great men of our land? Do you believe that just as much as He is crowded out of our lives and our homes, His great joy will be crowded out?

Selected from December 18, 1961 Bible Monitor

CHRIST THE LORD HAS COME!

Emily R. Moore

The shepherds in the fields abiding,
In faithful watch their flocks were keeping,
Judea's hills were hushed and still;
When from the realms of radiant glory,
They heard the angels tell the story,
Of "peace on earth, to men, good will."

"Fear not," said they, "we bring you tidings,
God's thought for man He is confiding,
The Saviour Christ is born tonight."
All glory be to God in heaven,
His love, His promise, now is proven,
Now shines the everlasting light.

With haste the shepherds sought the Stranger,
In Bethlehem they found the manger,

And there with joy beheld their King.
Then forth they came the message telling
Of Love Divine with men now dwelling, -
Let every heart His praises sing.

To burdened souls of every nation,
He came to bring His great salvation,
We would His grace, His love acclaim;
Hosanna in the highest, glory!
As shepherds we would bear the story,
Proclaim to all His wondrous name!

Selected by Brother Galen Litfin

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1937

THE GLORY OF THE LORD

L. W. Beery

The season of the year is at hand when our thoughts turn to that great event many years ago which has meant so much to the human family; the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christian people commemorate this event with great joy realizing the manifold benefits of salvation which we experience as a result of the coming of the Christ to the earth. In spite of all the disturbances, uncertainties and evil conditions existing all about us in these perilous days, the knowledge that we have that Jesus, an atoning Savior, was born into the world and fulfilled his mission perfectly, is a matter of great and lasting significance that brings joy and gladness into the heart of every faithful believer.

It is a matter of interest to us to review each year the passages of scripture pertaining to this occasion. One event of interest which followed the birth of Jesus is recorded by Luke as follows: "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not:

for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:8-11.) It would indeed have been a thrilling and inspiring experience for us if we could have been present and beheld this extraordinary manifestation of heavenly beings and to have heard the message of joy and hope from their lips. Indeed, just to read the account and contemplate upon it is a matter of great satisfaction to us who are poor, tillers of the soil, laborers—the common people in the world.

Here we have the great God of the universe manifesting His heavenly hosts and revealing His glory to those lowly shepherds who doubtless were "waiting for the consolation of Israel" while the kings, princes and great men (in the estimation of the world), were in ignorance and not able to comprehend or believe in it. "Though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect, unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off." (Ps. 138:6.)

When the angels made their appearance we are told that the glory of the Lord shone round about them. Evidently there was a great shining light which illuminated the vicinity where the shepherds were keeping their flocks. What this light was we do not know save that it was the "glory of the Lord." Doubtless the heavens opened and revealed a bit of the matchless brilliance of the heavens above where the great God of the universe reigns in all his splendor. Jesus revealed this glory when He was transfigured on the mountain top. "And His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light." (Matt. 17:2.)

The angel that rolled the stone from the tomb of Jesus at the time of the resurrection also revealed this heavenly glory. "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow." (Matt. 28:3.) These glimpses of heavenly glory give some idea of the glorious splendor around the throne of God.

We rejoice greatly this another Christmas morning that a Savior was born into the world because if we are faithful to His teachings we shall some day see and partake of that glory in the city of our God.

Not only are we glad that Jesus came into the world but we rejoice that He is coming again to receive His faithful children home.

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb. 9:28.) We should bear in mind continually that it takes preparation, watching and praying if we are to be ready to meet Him in His glory. He is coming "unto them that look for Him." May we strive to be as the lowly shepherds, believing and faithful, for the Lord is coming to earth again. "And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." (Matt. 24:31.)

WHO GOES THERE?

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me..." Revelation 3:20.

In the military when a soldier is doing sentry duty, if someone comes he is obliged to say, "Halt, who goes there?" The person must either have a pass signed by the commanding officer or else a good reason why he is there. Sometimes the person is expected, and the sentry alerted to the fact that someone is coming. At other times the intruder is someone very familiar to the sentry and so formalities can be done away with.

The scriptures tell us that the law is a schoolmaster in order to bring us to God. When Jesus knocks at our heart's door and our heart has been prepared, the seed being sown and properly taking root in our heart, then Jesus is recognized and allowed to enter our heart.

Growing up in the 1960's familiarized me with one of the most powerful teachings of that era: rebellion against authority, particularly God. God was effectively banned from the classroom at this time. Of course, what was happening in our government was only a reflection of what had been happening in homes and churches for many years, already. Sin had entered in and the teaching of scripture began to fade away. Today, when Jesus knocks, few people recognize Him, and He is mostly turned away.

Genesis 6:3 says, "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

We live in the Grace of God. We can be obedient to the working of the Spirit, as Paul was, or we can shun the Spirit until He stops calling. What a terrible time when He stops calling. Some will realize it; those who at one time followed after God. But there will be others so ignorant of the Spirit that when He departs they will not even realize it. Samson toyed with God so much that he did not even know that God had departed, and he was an esteemed Judge of Israel.

Some asked Jesus about the Galileans that Pilate had killed in the very act of worship, and about those who died when the tower of Siloam fell. Were they worse sinners than anyone else? Jesus' answer is found in Luke 13:3 and 5, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Jesus has given us a wonderful opportunity in being able to enter in and sup with Him. But many will not, and many shall seek to enter in but shall not be able. (Luke 13:24) As parents we must teach our children so that when Jesus knocks, they will be able to answer correctly. Would to God we would have a burden, not only for the souls of our children, but for others, even our worst enemies.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
70 Round Barn Road
Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE VOICE OF THE LORD

Read Psalm 29

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Genesis 1:2, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Genesis 1:3, "And GOD SAID, Let there be light: and there was light."

Genesis 1:6, "And GOD SAID, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

Genesis 1:9, "And GOD SAID, Let the waters under the heaven

be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so."

We read also of the creation of man and woman. As we read on through the Bible we read of God speaking. GOD SAID. Giving man instruction in truth and righteousness.

In Genesis three we read of Satan. He said also. We see the woman listening to Satan's lies leading to the fall of man because of disobeying God. God pronounced punishment upon Adam and Eve and upon the whole human race.

God also, because He loved us, made a way to be reconciled to Him through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Under the old law there were sacrifices of animals because of sins. When Jesus came He was the Holy Sacrifice, once and for all.

Hebrews 1:1-2, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." God speaks to us by His Son.

John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

John 17:8, "For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." Jesus brought God's Word.

Jesus had taken Peter, James and John upon the mountain, where Moses and Elias appeared with Him and He was transfigured. Luke 9:35, "And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."

We can get further good advice from Jesus' mother at the marriage feast in John 2:5, "His mother saith unto the servants, What-

soever he saith unto you, do it." Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He said His sheep follow Him because they know His voice.

Are we His sheep? Do we know His voice? Satan is speaking in so many ways today. The things we hear on the radio and read in newspapers are surely the words of Satan. We can be very thankful for the liberty that we have to have church schools and home schooling, so we might keep our children from these evils. Surely, we need to hear the words of Jesus, as he told His disciples, "Watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation.

May God's Word accomplish in our lives what He has sent it for. May it draw us closer to Him.

Your unworthy brother
Brother Roy Meyers

THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOUTH

"Good Investments"

In a book called, "Ride the Wild Horses," we read, "Life is an unending exchange of material we can't keep for riches we can't lose." How true! Our willingness to exchange is a barometer that measures our sense of values.

Considering the great sums we lavish on our bodies — bodies destined to return to the dust within a few short years — the futility of overemphasis on the external person is dramatically highlighted. Modern man definitely worships his body. He pampers it in every way. His life is a nerve shattering scramble for money to cloth it, feed it, excite it and entertain it. Americans spend over 70 billion dollars on clothing and jewelry each year and more than 17 billion dollars on alcoholic beverages.

It is strange that we never seem to lack the means for the things we want the most. We can get resources to pay for pampering ourselves but when it comes to spiritual resources we do not get quite as serious. In fact, many things that would help us in this area of our lives are legally blocked today.

In today's moral recession, it is important that we re-group and return to the moral precepts on which our nation was founded and in which the Bible teaches. Instead of having "cash therapy," we

need an injection of Spiritual renewal.

The affluence of our land has also led to little or no respect for the rights and property of other people. We look to fulfill our desires at the expense of others far too often.

Certainly we need to make a greater investment in the gospel and its teachings. We need to use as much of our income as possible in supporting the work of the church and for the propagation of the gospel to others.

Jesus did not condemn the rich young ruler for having money but He did condemn him for allowing his money to have him. He taught us to lay up our treasures in heaven. And, of course, one of the best ways to do this is to invest our earthly treasure in God's kingdom. A beautiful facet of the Christian life is that believers can make their money as immortal as themselves — if it is given freely and intelligently.

Invest in personal evangelism. Put your hands to work in training other Christians and give them the spiritual tools they require to serve the Lord effectively. Sacrifice, intercessory prayer, Christian example, purity of lifestyle and obedience all constitute the materials we can exchange for "riches we can't lose."

Whatever God has loaned us to use here on earth, let's gain the ultimate interest by investing it in eternal ways. God has freely given to us. Now let us freely give! Invest with loving sacrifice and gratitude to the One who gives you the gift of life and life eternal.

Brother Len Wertz

MUM, PLEASE DON'T KILL ME

Oh my Dear Mum! Oh, my Dear Mum!

Hear my humble cries for mercy.

Please lend me your ear,

I am helpless, dishonoured, humiliated and rejected.

Mum! Don't be so inhuman

Put down your dagger and reason with me.

Mum, I didn't plant myself into your life, you did.

I thought you don't want me

I have the right to live
Like everybody else.
God has a purpose for my life
Please don't kill me so I can accomplish that purpose.
Mum, you never chose to be born,
But at least you were given a chance to live.

My dear Dad, stop pretending,
Putting a face of holier than thou
You are equally responsible,
For what Mum is about to do to me.
You've rejected her because of me
And you are forcing her to push me out of her life.
Why did you help her to conceive me
If you did not want me?
Why can't you marry her
If only for my sake?

Grandparents, you are guilty too
And forcing Mum to kill me,
By sending her away, getting rid of her,
Please, please, don't disown her,
If Dad doesn't want her
Provide safe hands for her
So she won't kill me.
Ignore the shame she has brought to your family
If only for my sake
Even if you've advised her
And she has refused to listen
Spare her
So she won't kill me.

You people
Who call yourselves community.
Why look at Mum as an outcast?
Is she worse than you all?
You've acted more wickedly
And yet cause
Nothing shows, your sin.

You condemn Mum and make her
Push me out. Why? Why?

Doctor! Doctor! Stop this! Stop this!
Can't you hear my cries?
My pains, my despair?
You need only one minute to kill me
Yet the money you get
Will forever be cursed
And your family - your wife - children
And grandchildren
Will live under a curse
For all the lives you kill daily.

Mum!
Must I now die?
That overdose irritates me.
Please listen, Mum.
You can never fathom
What God wants me to do for you.
Give me a chance to live.
It will please my Creator
And benefit you in future.

Church people, ministers, Bishop,
Give Mum a chance to repent
And confess her sins
And know Jesus as Lord and
Savior
For the kingdom of Heaven is
At hand
Most of you may be good
And have never committed worse sins
But if only for my sake
Lead Mum to Christ.

Oh Dear Mum!
Don't you dare kill me!

God Bless you all.

Brother James Musumba
P.O. Box 616
Kapenguria, Kenya (E.A.)

WILL THERE BE A RAPTURE?

[Editor's note: Many interpretations are possible for end-time events. That presented in this article is one possibility.]

Occasionally, I meet a person who does not believe that there will be a rapture of the saints who have lived according to God's will, before the great tribulation, when man and God's wrath will be poured out on this wicked world. The word, "rapture" is not in the King James Version of the Bible.

However, the Old Testament is schoolmaster to the New Testament. Gal. 3:24. The Old Testament is Christ concealed, and the New Testament is Christ revealed. The types and shadows in the Old Testament are revealed in the New Testament.

What does the Bible give us about being caught away? Enoch was caught away because he walked with God many years and was found faithful and true. He was probably tried in many ways by Satan and his helpers, but was still faithful. The Lord took him that he was not found.

Elijah, another great man and prophet of God who had diligently suffered and obeyed was also taken to Heaven alive in a chariot of fire. Neither man ever died.

I have often wondered if they will be the two witnesses to the wicked spoken of by John the Revelator in Rev. 11:3-12. The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment. Heb. 9:27. But notice these two men were not new believers, but true and tried in every way before they were caught up, they walked with God.

Now, where does this lead us in belief of a latter day catching away which man calls the rapture? What does the Bible tell us? The caught away ones will probably be in part the wise virgins of the parable of the virgins. They will be given white linen robes,

spotless and without wrinkle. They will have crowns on their heads and harps in their hands. They will go with Christ to the marriage supper of the Lamb of God at the end of this world, perhaps in number, the 144,000 who are seen and described with the Lamb in Rev. 14.

In Revelation 16:15 and Matthew 24:43 it is written, "behold I come as a thief". Now a thief is most likely to come in the dark of night while men sleep. They take away the things they want which would indicate the catching away of the bride saints. The wise virgins in the parable were probably caught away, because after the foolish virgins had gotten their oil and came back, they were surprised that the wise virgins were gone. They had missed their opportunity to go along, which would throw them into the great tribulation to be tried by God and Satan. After that, if they were found faithful, they would become servants in the kingdom of God and will serve at the great supper of King Jesus and His bride. Although the foolish virgins had walked with the wise virgins on earth, they will not be taken with this group even though they walked together. They, probably, had kept the church rules as far as the human eye could see, but their hearts were not pure and clean before God. In at least in some ways, they had appeared unto men to be followers of the Lamb, but were not acceptable unto Him. They had not proven true in all the trials Satan had put before them. Their priority was not to put God first or they would have carried more oil with them in case their lights would go out. Isa. 57:1-2, "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come. He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness." They shall enter into peace before that terrible day of the Lord comes upon the wicked.

This will be a calling away, not a coming of Christ or a resurrection. As He sent heavenly beings to take away Enoch and Elijah to escort them to Heaven so will the rapture be. All who teach that the rapture will cause all people who profess to be believers and followers of Christ to be lifted off the face of the earth suddenly are mistaken. This gathering will be very small in our age, when people omit the keeping of God's commandments and substitute man's ideas instead. They put many other things first rather than their

service to God. They will find themselves classed as foolish virgins. They will be left here to learn to serve God first. Very possibly they may have to give their lives to prove their late convictions. They will become servants in the kingdom of God rather than participants as the Bride of Christ. Those who have not taken the mark of the beast will be given the privilege of serving the tables at the wedding feast of the Heavenly King and Redeemer and His Bride.

They did not have oil for their lamps when the wise virgins were called or raptured, but they went and bought it. Then their trials of proving to walk with God lay in their future on earth during the tribulation period to prove their steadfastness. As the servants in the kingdom of God, they might wear their own garments made white in the blood of the Lamb and with palms in their hands. Please read Rev. 7:9-17.

Probably, the catching away will be in a time of peace. Life will be going on as usual. Two men in one bed, one shall be taken, one shall be left; two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken the other left: two men shall be in the field; one shall be taken the other left. Luke 17:34-36, Matt. 24:40-41.

I Cor. 15:51-52, I Thess. 4:16-17 would appear to be fulfilled when Christ comes from the Heavens with a shout and every eye shall see Him riding the white horse with His Bride also riding white horses at the rapture of the saved who are still alive on the earth and the resurrection of the righteous dead. Please read all of Rev. 19. This is a scene all the world will witness. The sun will be darkened and the moon will not shine, but the Son of God will light the world with His appearance, that all living flesh and resurrected mankind will see. It will not be as a thief would come.

Preachers are telling people that all the world will see the coming of Christ by the means of television, because it will be impossible for those on the dark side of the earth to see Him. Let me tell you He will not need man's television. How do I know? The Bible tells us in Matt. 4:1-11, Luke 4:5. In the second temptation of Christ by Satan, he took Christ up on a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. Now if Satan has this much power (and he is the lesser power), how much more power would Christ have being the Son of God? I am sure Christ has the

power to show the people on Earth His advent from the glory of Heaven with His Bride. It is easily possible for the Son of God to make it possible.

God does not need man, but man needs God. So let us get ready with a fresh supply of oil to meet Him. Let us keep His commandments and be prepared and watchful for every opportunity to be faithful witnesses to those about us. Man's six thousand years have almost elapsed. If God's mercy will extend beyond that we do not know, but we do know that we should be ready at all times.

I doubt if the disappearance of the raptured saints will hardly cause a ripple in this pleasure seeking world, except for close families and friends. The sinful world will be in such an uproar they will not notice. Many will be taken by death before the rapture. However Christ calls, if He calls today, would He find us ready?

Sister Ruth M. Snyder

REPORT - AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

November 11, 1997

"Yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." I Cor. 9:19b. (The testimony of the Apostle Paul.)

Brother and Sister Paul Stump and Brother and Sister Verling Wolf are scheduled to leave for Africa December 7. Brother and Sister Timothy Scofield with their two sons, Brother William and Brother Matthew have tickets to leave December 29. They will endeavor to establish a location in Kenya from which we may be able to work with the groups of believers who have been baptized previously, both in Uganda and in Kenya. The Scofields plan to stay indefinitely. Remember these dear ones in your prayers as they carry the Good News and the love of Jesus to the lost in Africa, and strengthen the Churches there.

The following budget is tentatively proposed: \$20,000 to set up headquarters, including transportation, communications and utilities; \$1,700 monthly for operating costs; \$3,000 building fund.

We encourage your continuing generous support, and sincerely thank you for your past generosity, especially the regular contributors. May God bless you as you help "gain the more."

Your servants for the Glory of God and the salvation of the lost.

Brother Rudy Shaffer, Chairman
Brother Mark Andrews, Treasurer
Brother Ray Reed, Secretary

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DUNKARD BRETHREN HISTORY BOOK PROJECT

The Dunkard Brethren History Committee has been organized and commissioned to produce a book of Dunkard Brethren History by the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Dunkard Brethren Church, which is the year 2001.

To accomplish this momentous task, much work needs to be done by many people. There are two members of the Dunkard Brethren History Committee from each of the four Districts. They, along with two honorary members and an assistant editor, make up the committee. The members are as follows:

First District:	Robert Lehigh (Editor), Marlin Marks
Second District:	Harley Flory, Dennis St. John
Third District:	Ray Reed, Larry Andrews
Fourth District:	Milton Cook, Henry Walker
Honorary Members:	James Kegerreis, Rudy Cover
Assistant Editor:	Frank Reed

We are envisioning the production of a book of approximately 300 pages with lots of pictures, and of excellent quality. Some of you may be familiar with Don Fitzkee's book, *Moving Toward the Mainstream*, which we will use as a basic guide as to style. We have chosen to bind the book with a hard cover so that the book will be more enduring.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

There are several ways in which you will be able to help. Not a lot of Dunkard Brethren History has been chronicled. Most of our history remains in the minds and hearts of our older members. Therefore it is urgent that we somehow translate this knowledge of

Dunkard Brethren History into a format that is widely available.

To you who are older and have many memories, please begin writing your memories as they relate to the Dunkard Brethren Church and church life. If you are willing to impart some of the lessons you or others have learned in the past, you will be greatly assisting future generations. If you cannot write, or fell incapable of writing, then consider buying some cassette tapes, and put your thoughts and memories onto a tape with the assistance of a tape recorder.

For those who are younger, a very effective way to help in this area is to interview your elderly parents and grandparents, church patriarchs, and so forth, who can still remember the issues and struggles our Denomination faced when it was young. They may need some prompting in order to accomplish this. A few appropriate questions can serve to stir up their memories! Take careful notes about what they say, paying particular attention to people's names, personalities, names of places, dates, and facts. Ask appropriate questions to draw them out!

If writing just is not your thing, please take a tape recorder along and tape the interview, and then send the tape to the editor. The entire word-for-word conversation will probably not appear in this book, but much important information can be gleaned in this way, as well as the ability to confirm information gleaned from others. All the information will have to be confirmed and meticulously checked out. In order to have a reliable and trustworthy history, we will not be able to depend fully upon any one person's memory to validate important events, dates, and so forth.

Some of you, your parents, or your grandparents, might have kept diaries or journals. It would be of particular interest for us to have copies of these entries when they pertain to life in the church or church-related activities. Of particular interest would be an account of a Congregational Council Meeting, District Meeting, General Conference, or an account of how people resolved their conflicts.

To those of you who no longer have any living relatives who are interested in the affairs of the Dunkard Brethren Church, you can impart a valuable gift to those who are interested in the Denomination by "gifting" old pictures, District Minutes, General Conference

Minutes, church-related documents, Congregational Minutes, and letters from one official to another if they pertain to church matters. Why let this type of information languish in boxes in an attic where it will very likely be trashed someday, when you could sort through it now, and give these types of materials to the Dunkard Brethren History Committee? (Families who are active and interested in the Dunkard Brethren Church should continue to keep such documents in a safe place.)

Now is the time to begin writing or tape recording your memories about persons and events you remember from the Dunkard Brethren past.

INFORMATION ABOUT PICTURES

Concerning pictures — it's time to get the old shoe boxes out and begin sorting! There will be a need to carefully evaluate and establish an order of priority concerning the use of pictures. Pictures of people that are clear and in which they are easily recognizable will be top priority. Dunkard Brethren people were involved in many different types of activities, and we will want pictures representative of this. Buildings where Dunkard Brethren worshipped are important to our project. Some meetings were held in barns, in school houses, and in people's homes.

Next to the importance of the subject matter on the photographs, pictures which are clear and in good condition (not wrinkled, and have no tape on them) will be given first priority. If the pictures were taped into an album and the tape was only on the corners, it really will not matter too much. Sometimes a picture will be cracked from being folded. We will be able to use these only if they show something (or someone) of importance and to which (or to whom) we have no other access.

Pictures must be clearly labeled as to who is on the picture - in order that we can accurately identify each person, the place the picture was taken, the name of the meeting house (if one appears in the photo), or whose home it was, and the year the picture was taken. Do not write on the face of the picture. You can write very **lightly** and carefully with **pencil** on the back of the photograph. It would be best to write a number in the upper corner on the back of the photograph, then write the same number on a piece of paper,

and describe the picture (names of all the people on the photograph in the order they are standing or sitting, the place it was taken, and the approximate date it was taken). If you do not know the date it was taken, let us know your best guess, but be sure you tell us that you are guessing. We need to correctly define which dates are exact known dates, and which are approximate dates. Be sure to write down the name of the person who submitted the photograph, and their current address and phone number (in case there are any questions).

In some cases, your parents or grandparents may have already passed on, leaving you with a shoe box or album full of pictures, and you haven't a clue as to what is on them. In this case, we may be able to help. If you cannot identify what is on your photographs, do not let that keep you from submitting them. We have some experts on our committee who can inform "us youngsters" where the pictures were taken, who is on them, and the approximate dates they were taken. So please do not let the inability to do this keep you from submitting your valuable photographs.

The best way to submit the pictures will be if you can hand deliver them to the nearest member of the History Committee at a revival meeting, love feast, district meeting, or other special occasion. Sometimes, they will be right in your own congregation! If you do need to mail the photographs, use some cardboard between the pictures and the envelope to protect them from postmarking as they travel through the marvelous machinery of the US Postal Service.

For the purposes of this project, we will assume you want your photographs returned. If you wish them to become the property of the Dunkard Brethren History Committee, please clearly let us know. The pictures which we determine to be suitable for our purposes will be copied, and the originals then returned to you (unless you specifically direct otherwise). You can be assured that we will exercise due diligence to insure the preservation of your piece of Dunkard Brethren History.

So pick out the best of your photographs, identify them, and give them to your District Representatives of the History Committee. We will give top priority to pictures where the people and places,

as well as the year taken, are clearly identified.

CONCLUSION

When you have material to submit to the Dunkard Brethren History Committee, please forward it to the nearest committee member. They will then review it, and convey the appropriate material to the editor. Please clearly identify to whom the material belongs. We need to know who submitted the material (name, current address, and phone number), who wrote it, and whether you want it back. If you wish the Dunkard Brethren History Committee to keep it, please state that clearly in a cover letter. Otherwise, we will assume you want it returned.

All of us on the committee are working on this project entirely on our spare time. You can be assured that each of the members of the History Committee already had a very heavy schedule before this responsibility was added to our agendas. So if you do not hear from us for a while, or your photographs are not returned promptly, please be patient.

Even though 300 pages may seem like a lot of room for material, we will of necessity be limiting our articles about people to those who were "movers and shakers." A lot of the data, facts, and statistics can be shown in charts and tables, leaving more room for narratives. I anticipate that many anecdotes of events among the life of the Dunkard Brethren people will work their way into this volume.

One of the features that made Donald Durnbaugh's book on Brethren History stand out was that he reported the facts as he found them in his research. That will be our primary objective — not attempting to "color" our history either rosy or gray, but simply tell it as it was. We will let the truth be known with the hope that future generations will be able to learn from our mistakes, and to profit from the lessons we have learned.

I believe this project will be exciting, and envision it to be an in-depth look at who the Dunkard Brethren have been, and what makes us tick! Hopefully, this project will help us to better chart our course for the future!

On behalf of the History Committee, I will sincerely appreciate

all the help you can give us!

Respectfully Submitted,
Brother Robert S. Lehigh, Editor

NEWS ITEMS

REMINDER

The subscription price of the Bible Monitor will be \$5.00 a year as of January 1, 1998. This new rate was established by the Publication Board following the decision of 1997 General Conference.

This is the first increase in fifteen years. Very few things have remained at the same price they were fifteen years ago. It does not make good sense to run the Lord's work at a continual loss in the midst of the general prosperity that God has given us.

NOTICE

Presiding Elders are reminded to send the Editor all changes that should appear in the February 1998, issue. Please have in the Editor's hands by January 10, 1998. This includes any additions, deletions or corrections in the Ministerial and Deacons list as well as other standing information concerning each congregation. The Editor's address is 1138 E. 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223. His telephone number is 909-845-6231. With your help this year's issue can be error-free.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for your prayers, cards, telephone calls, the flowers, and your love and concern. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. God bless you.

Brother Jacob and Sister Fern Ness

THANK YOU

I want to sincerely thank each and every one of the Brethren and Sisters for the beautiful cards and letters, telephone calls and all the kindness shown me for my 95th birthday.

May God bless each and everyone.

In Christian love
Sister Clara Gunderman

THANKS

Thanks to all of my Brothers and Sisters in the Christian faith and many friends for flowers, Christmas gifts, birthday cards every year since I have been in a Nursing Home Care Facility. In September 1997, my family and nurse arranged for an emergency specialist in Marion to take a biopsy. He informed my family all tests showed that I had colon cancer.

I asked Bro. Robert and Sis. Clarice Carpenter to come to the University Nursing Center in Upland to anoint me the night before my surgery. My daughter, Margaret Smith, went with me during my biopsy and through my surgery. After being in the intensive care unit I was moved back to the unit where I was before. There they gave me safe blood, which I needed badly. I was too sick to realize that Bro. Bob and Sis. Clarice, and three of my children were there before I went to surgery. My daughter, Ellen I. Leach, could not be here, but called me from Jacksonville, Florida before I went into surgery and said they were praying for me. The surgeon who performed the surgery had gone to Indiana University of Medicine with my son, Thomas. All at the hospital said it was a miracle that I came through it so well. Keep praying for me.

Sister Almeda Strayer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1998

January 4 - God's Commission To Joshua - Joshua 1:1-9.

1. Name the keys to prosperity and success which God spoke to Joshua.
2. How do the words of God, "Be strong and of a good courage", relate to our Christian walk in life?

January 11 - Joshua's Mobilization For Crossing The Jordan-Josh.1:10-18.

1. What were the words of the people in reply to the commands of Joshua for preparing to cross the Jordan?
2. In our Christian experience what would compare to the crossing of the Jordan?

January 18 - Mission Of The Two Spies - Joshua 2:1-24.

1. How did Rahab know God had given the land to the children of Israel?
2. Explain the "scarlet thread" which allows us to escape today.

January 25 - Israel Crosses The Jordan - Joshua 3:1-17.

1. What symbolized God's presence as Israel crossed the Jordan?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the crossing of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1998

January 4 - Salvation - Ps. 27:1, 37:34-40, John 3:14-17, Acts 4:10-12.

1. Whom will the Lord deliver from the wicked and save.
2. For what purpose did the Son of God come into the world?

January 11 - Necessities - Matt. 5:19-20, 18:1-4, Luke 13:1-9,
John 4:22-24, 6:47-58.

1. Compare the necessity of being childlike with being childish.
2. Explain the necessity of the bread and cup we partake of at communion.

January 18 - Truth - Prov. 12:13-28, 23:23, Eph. 4:20-25.

1. How can we tell if someone is speaking the truth?
2. How can we "buy the truth" and make sure we do not sell it?

January 25 - Contentment - Prov. 15:14-19, Luke 3:7-14, Phil. 4:6-19.

1. Explain the words of John the Baptist, "Be content with your wages."
2. How can we, like the Apostle Paul, learn to be content in whatsoever state wherein we are?

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dale E. Jamison, Chairman
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Dennis St.John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Warren C.Smith, Treasurer
26270 Highway 50
McClave, CO 81057

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Fred O. Pifer, Chairman
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Robert Carpenter, Secretary
R.5 Box 97
Peru, IN 46970

Dale E. Jamison, Treasurer
R.1 Box 137
Quinter, KS 67752

Henry Walker
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386

Rudy Shaffer
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Jacob C.Ness
136 Homeland Road
York, PA 17403

Paul Stump
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Milton Cook
1138 E. 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Paul Stump, Chairman
10340 North Diamond Mill Rd.
Englewood, OH 45322

Mike Wray, Secretary
R.5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

H. Edward Johnson, Treasurer
1307 S.H.108
Wauseon, OH 43567

Fred O. Pifer
1734 240th Street
Adel, IA 50003

Ray Stuber
5200 Swamp Road
Felton, PA 17356

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

James Meyers, Chairman
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St.John, Secretary
21397-County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

Rick St.John, Treasurer
2578 County Road 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Marlin Marks
3027 Acorn Lane
Red Lion, PA 17356

Mark Cordrey
4025 Woodland Avenue
Modesto, CA 95358

RELIEF BOARD

Henry Walker, Chairman
12409 Terrace View Court
Waterford, CA 95386
(209) 874-2832

Martin Meyers, Secretary
2654 K Avenue
Adel, IA 50003
(515) 993-3028

William Carpenter, Treasurer
8012 Cavender Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6535

Virgil Leatherman
419 North Queen Street
Littlestown, PA 17340
(717) 359-5753

Paul Nell
Woodland Drive
R6 Box 6119
Spring Grove, PA 17403-9489
(717) 225-1663

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

David Skiles, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Hayes Reed, Chairman
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, CA 95355

James Meyers, Secretary
2641 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlan Jamison, Treasurer
Box 100
Quinter, KS 67752

Mike Wray
R 5 Box 98
Peru, IN 46970

Larry Andrews
12306 East 203rd Street
Raymore, MO 64083

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Rudy Shaffer, Chairman
42 Doe Run Road
Manheim, PA 17545

Ray R.Reed, Secretary
302 Percival
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Mark Andrews, Treasurer
24407 South Overfelt Road
Peculiar, MO 64078

All contributions to the various boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

NONPROFIT
Postage
PAID
Permit #158
North East, PA

Elam Moss
4254 Richmond Palestine Rd
New Madison OH 45346-9608

[illegible]